

2015 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 157

BY SENATOR ALARIO

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Senator Edwin R. Murray on 24 years of distinguished public service in the Legislature of Louisiana.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Honorable Edwin R. Murray for twenty-four years of invaluable public
3 service in the Legislature of Louisiana provided to the citizenry of this state, in
4 particular, the constituency of Senate District No. 4 and the city of New Orleans.

5 WHEREAS, born in 1960, Edwin Rene Murray is a lifelong resident and favorite son
6 of New Orleans; he was a quick study at John Kennedy High School and matriculated to
7 Loyola University to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a juris doctor degree
8 from Loyola University School of Law; and

9 WHEREAS, while attending Loyola, he garnered numerous academic honors
10 including Loyola Law Clinic, Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities, the
11 Student Bar Association, the Black Law Student Association, appointment to Moot Court,
12 and he pledged Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity; and

13 WHEREAS, after the formation of the successful law partnership of Murray, Darnell
14 and Associates, Edwin Murray considered entering the field of politics; and

15 WHEREAS, from 1991 until 2004, Ed Murray was elected to represent District No.
16 96 in the Louisiana House of Representatives and was assigned to the House standing
17 committees on Appropriations, House and Governmental Affairs, and Labor and Industrial
18 Relations; the House Executive Committee; the statutory entities of the Legislative Audit

1 Advisory Council as chairman, Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, and the State
2 Bond Commission; and

3 WHEREAS, his professional affiliations include the organizations of the National
4 Conference of State Legislators, National Black Conference of State Legislators, National
5 Conference of Insurance Legislators, American Bar Association, Louisiana State Bar
6 Association, Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, National Bar Association, and Louisiana Trial
7 Lawyers Association; and

8 WHEREAS, Senator Murray took his oath of office to represent Senate District No.
9 4 in Orleans Parish in January 2005, serving his first session in the Senate that spring; in
10 August of that year, Hurricane Katrina struck South Louisiana and all the rules changed;
11 Orleans Parish and the entire region were brought to the brink of disaster; it was a defining
12 moment in his life; and in the aftermath of the storm, life, liberty, and property became a
13 high-stakes gamble in the survival of the city; and

14 WHEREAS, although much of the French Quarter was spared from high water, large
15 portions of the district were flooded and the inner workings of local government were at a
16 standstill; those were dark days, and enduring the catastrophe became an hour-by-hour
17 proposition, but "the city that care forgot" pulled itself out of the mire and the darkness of
18 the disaster through a long recovery process and, today, the city and its people still bear both
19 visible and invisible scars; and

20 WHEREAS, through a series of special sessions at the capitol, Senator Murray
21 penned legislation to reenforce the property rights of homeowners and make certain that due
22 process and ownership were preserved; he was often at odds with developers and city hall
23 officials in the haste to repair homes and neighborhoods; and

24 WHEREAS, his legislative expertise garnered assignments to the Senate standing
25 committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs, Judiciary A,
26 Finance, Labor & Industrial Relations as vice-chairman, Senate and Governmental Affairs,
27 Insurance, and Local and Municipal Affairs; and select committees on Homeland Security,
28 Hurricane Recovery, Oversight of the Gulf Coast Claims Facility as chairman, Veterans
29 Affairs, Vocational and Technical Education, and Women and Children; and he was once
30 again assigned to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and Legislative Audit

1 Advisory Council; and

2 WHEREAS, Senator Murray applied his leadership skills to advance legislation for
3 the Legislative Black Caucus and the New Orleans Caucus; he acted as Senate Floor Leader
4 for the City of New Orleans and authored legislation for local initiatives including the
5 Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, the Orleans Parish School Board, recovery
6 districts, and the conservation of civil due process and property rights for those owners
7 displaced by Hurricane Katrina; and

8 WHEREAS, while in the legislature, Senator Murray authored other legislation that
9 included equal pay for women, workers' compensation, transportation infrastructure, health
10 care, education, workforce training, economic development, anti-discrimination, tourism
11 development, and campaign finance; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Murray advanced legislation for the establishment of special
13 districts such as Lakeview Crime Prevention District and the French Quarter Historic Area
14 Management District, tourism funding to attract major sporting events to the state, the
15 underwriting of insurance premiums for hurricane victims, and the reapportionment and
16 redistricting of New Orleans due to major population shifts; and

17 WHEREAS, in the realities of life in post-Katrina South Louisiana, Senator Murray
18 has a vision of a vibrant New Orleans; during this recovery period he has used his talents of
19 persuasion and his willingness to make a difference in the political process to bolster the
20 rebuilding of both the parish and the city; to strengthen the French Quarter as a national
21 historic landmark and a vital component of Louisiana's tourism industry; to support
22 Louisiana's cultural heritage and unique history; and to revel in the continued grand
23 renaissance of "The City", known to the outside world as the most European city in the
24 Americas, New Orleans, Louisiana; and

25 WHEREAS, Senator Murray has earned numerous honors and accolades for his
26 myriad accomplishments in public life and in his community; however, his greatest
27 accomplishments have been championing legislation and, ultimately, witnessing the fruits
28 of his labor that have made a positive impact in the lives of so many citizens of this state.

29 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
30 does hereby commend the Honorable Edwin R. Murray for twenty-four years of leadership

1 and exemplary public service in the Legislature of Louisiana that he has provided to the
2 citizenry of this state, in particular, the constituency of Senate District No. 4 and House
3 District No. 96, and the city of New Orleans, and note this proud legacy of good works.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does
5 hereby express its hardy congratulations from his friends and colleagues for a job well done
6 and convey its best wishes for all his future aspirations.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
8 Senator Edwin R. Murray of Senatorial District 4.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Suzi Montague.

DIGEST

SR 157 Original 2015 Regular Session Alario

Commends Senator Edwin R. Murray for his many years of public service in the Louisiana
Legislature.