

2016 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 83

BY SENATOR ALARIO

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Dr. David R. Heitmeier for his exemplary service to the state of Louisiana and the constituency of Senate District Seven.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Honorable David R. Heitmeier, OD, former state senator representing  
3 District Seven and the parishes of Orleans, Jefferson, and Plaquemines, for his  
4 outstanding accomplishments and exemplary public service to the citizens of the  
5 state of Louisiana.

6 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that the members of the Senate of the Legislature  
7 of Louisiana recognize the Honorable David R. Heitmeier for a job well done and for his  
8 singular efforts to affect positive change in government through his extraordinary legislative  
9 service; and

10 WHEREAS, as a lifelong resident of Algiers, Dr. David Heitmeier has rendered a  
11 remarkable record of public service, having rigorously served the communities of Gretna,  
12 Terrytown, Harvey, and Belle Chasse with prestige for eight years; and

13 WHEREAS, during his tenure Dr. Heitmeier embodied the best qualities of a public  
14 servant possessing honesty and integrity and taking personal responsibility to address the  
15 issues of his constituency that included delivery of health care services and local  
16 transportation infrastructure; and

17 WHEREAS, David Richard Heitmeier was born the youngest son of Dewey J.  
18 Heitmeier, an Algiers businessman, and Barbara "Bobbie" Cargol Heitmeier, a judicial

1 employee of the Orleans Parish Civil District Court, and reared along with two older  
2 brothers, Francis and Robert "Bobby" Heitmeier, in an exuberant household flavored with  
3 the influences of New Orleans culture and local politics; and

4 WHEREAS, after attending Holy Cross High School in New Orleans, David obtained  
5 an undergraduate degree in biological, mathematical, and physical sciences from the  
6 University of Southwestern Louisiana, now known as the University of Louisiana at  
7 Lafayette; and he later graduated with a doctorate in Optometry from the University of  
8 Houston in 1987; and

9 WHEREAS, choosing to return to the community that he loved, David founded the  
10 optometric practice of Heitmeier & Armani Medical & Surgical Eyecare; his hard work and  
11 innovation earned him the admiration of his colleagues; and his acumen in patient care and  
12 medical ethics led to speaking engagements at regional and national conferences; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2007, with a genuine interest in the needs of the people and with the  
14 encouragement of family and friends, David Heitmeier ran a successful campaign and  
15 succeeded in capturing the Senate seat previously held by his brother, the Honorable Francis  
16 C. Heitmeier, and was successfully reelected in 2011, without opposition; and

17 WHEREAS, during his two terms, David garnered committee assignments to Senate  
18 Judiciary B as vice chairman, Transportation, Highways and Public Works, Environmental  
19 Quality, and Revenue and Fiscal Affairs; and

20 WHEREAS, it was as chairman of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee that  
21 Senator Heitmeier focused on health planning, preventative public health measures, smoking  
22 cessation, nutrition, and obesity studies; and instituted policy changes like the Upper  
23 Payment Limit program that increased federal matching funds earmarked for hospitals and  
24 health care providers to offset the costs for uncompensated care; and

25 WHEREAS, Senator Heitmeier penned legislation to address local issues of funding  
26 for transportation improvements in drainage, infrastructure, traffic flow, bridges and tunnel  
27 repairs; and

28 WHEREAS, after hurricanes Gustav and Ike, Senator Heitmeier worked with parish  
29 governments to assure eyecare assistance for storm victims; and

30 WHEREAS, many professional, civic, and nonprofit agencies have benefitted from

1 his active participation which include the American Optometric Association, the Louisiana  
2 Optometric Association, the Algiers Economic Development Foundation, the Plaquemines  
3 Association of Business and Industry, the Ochsner West Bank Health Systems, Special  
4 Olympics, and Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Louisiana, Inc.; and

5 WHEREAS, David Heitmeier has been the recipient of numerous accolades in  
6 association with his professional and legislative accomplishments, far too numerous to  
7 count, however his recognition as the 2015 Optometrist of the Year by the American  
8 Optometric Association, the Inspired Cross Award by the Daughters of Charity Services of  
9 New Orleans, and the Extra Mile of Southeast Louisiana, Inc. 2015 Health Care Champion  
10 Award, have brought particular satisfaction; and

11 WHEREAS, although the demands of public life keep him quite busy, be assured that  
12 family is always his first concern; elder daughter, Leah Elizabeth, has followed in her  
13 father's footsteps to obtain a doctor of Optometry degree from his alma mater, the University  
14 of Houston, and younger daughter, Meghan Rose, has obtained an undergraduate degree in  
15 education from Southeastern Louisiana University; and the successes of his children fill his  
16 heart with pride; and

17 WHEREAS, as David Heitmeier returns to the private sector, he deserves heartfelt  
18 thanks for those extraordinary strides confected to improve health care delivery while  
19 serving as an exceptional member of the Louisiana Legislature.

20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
21 does hereby commend former senator, David R. Heitmeier, OD for his years of dedicated  
22 public service to this body and the state of Louisiana.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does  
24 hereby wish for Dr. David Heitmeier every success in all future endeavors.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
26 David R. Heitmeier, OD.

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

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Commends David Heitmeier, OD, for his service to Senate District 7.