



1 public having to come to the registrar; and

2 WHEREAS, the process of assembling the voter rolls has also changed with the  
3 technological and electronic advances over the last forty-five years and Ms. Burks recalls  
4 that registration records in 1971 were hard copies of the registration application that  
5 contained the name, address and party affiliation of the voter; and

6 WHEREAS, Ms. Burks reports that now the applications of voters are scanned into  
7 a statewide electronic system, ERIN, a useful tool for maintaining records and tracking  
8 registered voters statewide and facilitating communication among registrars; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1984, the registrar's office began conducting absentee voting on a  
10 limited basis and Ms. Burks states that this process of voting before the actual election date  
11 is now available to any registered voter, known as the "No Excuse Voting" program, both  
12 significant changes in the manner in which elections in Louisiana are conducted; and

13 WHEREAS, Janet Burks was named registrar in 1997 and she has given credit for  
14 much of the success of the office under her leadership to her staff whom she describes as  
15 "phenomenal"; and

16 WHEREAS, Ms. Burks is understandably proud of the "Over 65" program that  
17 allows those age sixty-five and over to receive ballots at home, mark their vote on the ballot  
18 and return it by mail, never having to leave their home; and

19 WHEREAS, during her tenure as registrar, Ms. Burks served as president of the  
20 Registrar of Voters Association and was honored by the association in 2015 with the coveted  
21 Seminar Dedication Award; and

22 WHEREAS, as she sought to bring increased professionalism to her public service  
23 as registrar, Janet Burks sought and obtained the well-respected designation of Certified  
24 Elections Registration Administrator; and

25 WHEREAS, Ms. Burks has described the registrar's office as her second home and  
26 she will be greatly missed by her staff and all those who work in the parish offices in  
27 Benton, Louisiana; and

28 WHEREAS, Ms. Burks worked tirelessly to update her office and has been adept at  
29 keeping pace with the changing practices in voter registration and the conducting of  
30 elections on a local level; and

