

2017 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 10

BY REPRESENTATIVES BARRAS, ROBBY CARTER, AND LEGER

COMMENDATIONS: Commends and expresses appreciation to former state legislator Ben W. Nevers, Sr., of Bogalusa upon his retirement as chief of staff of the governor of Louisiana

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend and express appreciation to Ben W. Nevers, Sr., of Bogalusa upon his
3 retirement as chief of staff of the governor of Louisiana.

4 WHEREAS, it is appropriate that a special measure of commendation be extended
5 to Ben W. Nevers, Sr., as he prepares to retire as chief of staff of the governor of Louisiana
6 and to honor him with the abiding affection and utmost respect of the Louisiana House of
7 Representatives, where he began his long and highly productive tenure of state public
8 service; and

9 WHEREAS, Ben Nevers is held in the highest esteem as a longtime public servant
10 whose excellence as a state legislator merited his consistent reelection to office over
11 seventeen years, during which time he fully used every opportunity to serve the citizens of
12 St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington parishes and the state in an honorable manner;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Ben Nevers, the son of the late Iva Magee Nevers and Ben H. Nevers,
15 was sworn in as the representative for House District No. 75 on May 6, 1999, and was
16 reelected without opposition for the 2000-2004 term; and

17 WHEREAS, during his service in the House of Representatives, Representative
18 Nevers was a valued contributor to House deliberations, providing consistently wise insight
19 as a member of the House Committee on Commerce, the House Committee on Education,

1 and the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations and focusing his efforts largely
2 on important education and labor issues; and

3 WHEREAS, in the fall of 2003, Mr. Nevers was elected to represent District No. 12
4 in the Louisiana Senate, where he served with great diligence for three consecutive terms,
5 lending his time and talents as a member of several Senate committees, including Judiciary
6 A and Labor and Industrial Relations as chairman; Education as chair and vice chairman;
7 Health and Welfare; Agriculture; Retirement; Revenue and Fiscal Affairs; Transportation,
8 Highways, and Public Works; and the Senate Select Committee on Vocational and Technical
9 Education; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Nevers' long tenure in the legislature was winding down due to term
11 limits at the end of 2015 when he was called upon and accepted graciously the request to
12 remain in public service; upon his election in November, Governor-Elect John Bel Edwards
13 selected Mr. Nevers to serve as his chief of staff, and it is difficult to imagine a person better
14 suited to have filled this vital position; and

15 WHEREAS, as Governor Edwards' chief of staff, Mr. Nevers played a very
16 significant role in helping the governor lead the state through some of the most challenging
17 times in recent memory, including a severe and ongoing budget crisis and historic floods in
18 both the northern and southern parts of the state; his long legislative experience, vast breadth
19 of knowledge on a wide range of key state issues, and skill at working and negotiating across
20 partisan lines made him invaluable as the leader of the governor's team; and

21 WHEREAS, in addition to his steadfast commitment to public service, Mr. Nevers
22 is a striking example of one who has enthusiastically embraced the fundamental priorities
23 of a life fully lived, especially through his devotion to his family – his wife, Barbara Ann
24 Williams Nevers; his three children, Ben, Jr., Julie, and Andy; six grandchildren; and three
25 great-grandchildren; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Nevers is a graduate of Bogalusa High School, attended the
27 Louisiana Technical College, and is the president and chief executive officer of Nevers
28 Electrical and Contracting, which he founded nearly forty years ago; his professional, civic,
29 and business affiliations over the years have included his membership on the Bogalusa City
30 School Board from 1987 until 1994; his membership in the Louisiana Association of Marine

1 Dealers, the National Electrical Contractors Association, and the International Brotherhood
2 of Electrical Workers; and his longtime service as a deacon and active member of Memorial
3 Baptist Church; and

4 WHEREAS, no recognition of Mr. Nevers is complete without noting that seldom
5 has there been a public servant who enjoys a greater reputation; he is known for keeping his
6 word, for accomplishing much through his personal credibility and integrity, and for never
7 placing party or politics above serving the greater good; and

8 WHEREAS, a man of deep faith, in his farewell address to the Senate on May 27,
9 2015, Mr. Nevers said, "There's a time to come and a time to go; it's my time to go ... I want
10 to thank my Lord and savior for giving me this opportunity ... I thank Him for giving me the
11 opportunity, the health, and the strength to serve this great state ... I would have not made
12 it without Him ... His goodness and mercy have been with me all this way and will continue
13 to be with me and you"; and

14 WHEREAS, it is the sincere hope of the members of the Louisiana House of
15 Representatives that God's goodness and mercy will continue to be with Ben Nevers, whom
16 they will forever admire as a determined man of principle, an exemplar of decency, and a
17 statesman who represents all that is good about the state of Louisiana; and

18 WHEREAS, Ben W. Nevers, Sr., merits a special commendation and heartfelt
19 appreciation for the tremendous pride, honor, and joy he brings to his family, friends, and
20 community, the legislature, and the entire state of Louisiana, which will long reap the
21 benefits of his distinguished legacy.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
23 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Ben W. Nevers, Sr., of Bogalusa and extend
24 to him honor and recognition for his outstanding accomplishments and particularly his
25 excellence in state public service as a seventeen-year-member of the legislature representing
26 the citizens of St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington parishes, and later as chief of
27 staff of the governor of Louisiana; does hereby pay tribute to him for the generous and
28 effective way in which he has dedicated his intelligence and his energy to the service of
29 others; and does extend to this wonderful man every good wish for success, happiness, and

1 richest blessings as he embarks on the next chapter of his life and in all of his future
2 endeavors.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
4 to Ben W. Nevers, Sr.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 10 Original

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Barras

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