

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 46

BY SENATOR APPEL AND REPRESENTATIVE HENRY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Bill Capo for outstanding service to people of Louisiana and beyond.

WHEREAS, Bill Capo was born and raised in New Orleans, chose his profession when he was seven and got his first television job at seventeen driving a truck by day to pick up props and operating a studio camera at night at WWOM-TV; and

WHEREAS, Bill Capo earned a degree in communications with emphasis in broadcast journalism from Loyola University New Orleans and a certificate in broadcast meteorology from Mississippi State University; and

WHEREAS, Bill Capo interned at WDSU-TV and anchored a 12-week series that aired on WYES-TV in college, worked for the NBC affiliate in Mobile after graduation, returned to New Orleans television as a reporter at WVUE-TV in 1979, joined WWL-TV in 1980, and was named Action Reporter in 1985; and

WHEREAS, as Action Reporter, Bill Capo fielded about 8,000 calls per year for help in solving people's problems, including helping them obtain life-saving operations, keep their homes, remain financially solvent, become homeowners, get medical equipment like wheelchairs, handicap vans, and mobility products, feed their children, get school uniforms and supplies for their children, dispute incorrect charges for city services, get potholes and streetlights fixed, and get road signs to warn of a low clearance at a particularly bad intersection known for flooding; and

WHEREAS, Bill Capo helped bring support from Louisiana to New York City after 9/11, and supplies to those whose homes flooded or were destroyed by tornadoes in the Midwest, rebuild a village in El Salvador destroyed by an earthquake, covered the Louisiana National Guard's aid to earthquake victims in Haiti, and brought help to Louisianians who

also lost everything in floods and tornadoes; and

WHEREAS, Bill Capo was assigned to do weather as Hurricane Katrina approached, was on the air as Katrina made landfall in Louisiana, and was also first to break the news of the levee breaks in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Bill Capo spent all of 2006 getting FEMA trailers and helping gut and rebuild for people so they could come home; and

WHEREAS, Bill Capo worked to get an African American World War II hero his long-deserved medals, raised support for Honor Air Flights honoring Louisiana's World War II veterans by transporting them to their memorials in Washington, D.C., and raised funds and donations to restore the world's only operational, fully functional combat veteran patrol torpedo boat – the World War II Museum's PT 305; and

WHEREAS, Bill Capo helped raise funds and support for many nonprofits and service agencies including the United Way, the American Red Cross, St. Michael's Special School, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Unity for the Homeless, Second Harvest Food Bank, Easter Seals, the St. Bernard Project, Habitat for Humanity, the World War II Museum, the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation, and the Al Copeland Foundation supporting cancer research at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Bill Capo reported some of the most significant stories in the state's modern history including the crash of Pan-Am flight 759 in Kenner, the papal visit to New Orleans, the Republican National Convention, presidential visits, the flight of STS-135 – the last space shuttle voyage copiloted by a Tulane graduate, as well as the New Orleans Saints' first Superbowl victory from Miami; and

WHEREAS, Bill Capo provided an alternative to drinking and driving over the holidays with his 35-year series, *12 for the Road*, in which he profiled celebrities and shared their festive nonalcoholic drink recipes; and

WHEREAS, Bill Capo has mentored many young broadcast journalists, helping to launch reporting careers around the country; and

WHEREAS, Bill Capo is a humanitarian who has been a positive influence, making a real difference in people's lives by helping them solve problems, whether or not he was telling their stories.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby commends Bill Capo for his significant contributions to the people of Louisiana during his 42-year career as a broadcast journalist.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Bill Capo.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES