

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY SENATOR MILLS

A RESOLUTION

To commend Thomas H. Lillie on his many accomplishments on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Department of the Interior.

WHEREAS, Thomas H. Lillie was born and raised in the South Louisiana community of Breaux Bridge, the Crawfish Capital of the World, as the seventh child of Charles and Antonia Lillie; and

WHEREAS, Thomas H. Lillie's childhood was full of life lessons working at the feet of his father, an appliance repairman in a small town where loyalty, honor, dignity, and commitment to the least of your brothers and sisters mattered; and

WHEREAS, these life lessons helped him in his academic and extracurricular pursuits at Teurlings Catholic High School, the University of Southwestern Louisiana, now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where he was awarded a Bachelor of Science in wildlife management in 1976, at Colorado State University where he was awarded a Master of Science in entomology in 1978, and the University of Florida where he was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy in medical entomology in 1985; and

WHEREAS, Thomas H. Lillie joined the United States Air Force in 1977 and served for twenty-six years, retiring in 2003 with the rank of colonel with major accomplishments including securing easements to 26,000 acres of California coastal property to ensure space launch safety, developing NEPA compliance procedures for classified space programs, spearheading congressional approval of over five million acres of public land for military combat training, documenting pesticide contamination in over 5,000 homes, demonstrating 99% effectiveness of new mosquito repellents during field tests in Alaska, and leading the

Air Force's \$34 million conservation program; and

WHEREAS, Thomas H. Lillie was awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal in 2003, Range and Airspace Action Officer of the Year in 1998 for exceptional contribution to the mission, the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters in 1998 and 1991, the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters in 1982 and 1987, the University of Florida Dean's List Award for Leadership in 1985 for University and Community Service, first place in the Florida Entomological Society Student Paper Contest in 1984 for best oral presentation, the Company Grade Officer of the Year in 1979 for outstanding performance and community service, and the ROTC Cadet of the Semester at Colorado State University in 1977 for academic and military excellence; and

WHEREAS, Thomas H. Lillie continued his service to America as a professional staff member for the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the United States Senate from June 2003 to May 2009; and

WHEREAS, Thomas H. Lillie answered the call once again to serve his country as the Chief of Staff for the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement within the Department of Interior from September 2010 to his retirement in March of 2018; and

WHEREAS, Thomas H. Lillie has a reputation of being a great sibling, friend, neighbor, coworker, and the most reliable fix-it man in the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Thomas H. Lillie has been blessed with two amazing and wonderful daughters and two granddaughters that are the apples of his eye; and

WHEREAS, Thomas H. Lillie is married to his soulmate and best friend, Julie Falkner, and together they have enjoyed pursuing happiness and a certain joie de vivre (joy of life) that others remark as out of the ordinary and special; and

WHEREAS, although Thomas H. Lillie has lived in six states throughout his military and professional career, he has remained connected to the values of his big family and small town, and the unique Cajun culture through his love of Cajun cooking and storytelling; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities and nation, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of people like Thomas H. Lillie who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Thomas H. Lillie upon the occasion of his retirement from the United States Department of Interior, record and recognize his numerous contributions to this state and nation, extend to him much appreciation for his long, dedicated, and generous service, and express sincere wishes for health and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Thomas H. Lillie.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE