

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 176

BY SENATORS ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PETERSON, PRICE, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Honorable Eric LaFleur for his many years of invaluable public service in the Legislature of Louisiana and express enduring gratitude for his outstanding contributions to the people of District 28 and the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Eric LaFleur is a native son from the heart of Cajun Louisiana, bringing the spirit of Acadiana into every part of his service, from his jovial, quick-witted demeanor to speaking French on the campaign trail and in committee; Senator LaFleur championed the preservation of the Acadian culture, legislating relative to the expansion of French Immersion instruction and funding for the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL); and

WHEREAS, Senator LaFleur received his bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University and his Juris Doctor from Tulane Law School; and

WHEREAS, after obtaining his law degree, he served as a former assistant district attorney in New Orleans, a former law clerk with the Third Circuit Court of Appeal, and a former assistant attorney general with the Louisiana Department of Justice and then built a successful career as a businessman and an attorney, specializing in the complexities of public finance; and

WHEREAS, he has spent nearly two decades in the Louisiana Legislature, beginning in 2000, with his election to the House of Representatives where he served for eight years and was a member of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the House Committee on Commerce, as well as the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in the Senate, Senator LaFleur served on the Senate Committee on Judiciary B, the Senate Committee on Insurance, and the Senate Committee on Education, for eight of his twelve years as the vice chairman, advocating for the improvement of the education system for all of Louisiana's children, and sponsoring legislation to preserve and advocate for the proliferation of the French language through statewide immersion programs; and

WHEREAS, through his efforts and commitments to his heritage and French language, Louisiana is now the only state to become a member of the International Organisation of La Francophonie, joining other countries with this distinction; and

WHEREAS, as a Senate member, Senator LaFleur continued his focus on state finances while serving on the Senate Committee on Finance and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget for eight years before being called upon by the Senate president to serve as the chairman for both committees during his last term in the Senate; and

WHEREAS, his years of service on the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance prepared him for the challenges and leadership necessary to serve during unprecedented fiscal turmoil in multiple extraordinary sessions, with each one culminating in a balanced budget achieved through compromise and commitment, and after four years of working towards fiscal and revenue stability, Senator LaFleur has contributed to the state's promising fiscal outlook; and

WHEREAS, he dedicated funding for the Picard Recreational and Educational Center and the Ville Platte Evangeline Recreational District and worked tirelessly over the last year to open the Acadiana Youth Center, a facility developed to carry out the provisions of juvenile justice reform; and

WHEREAS, one of Senator LaFleur's most important and serious acts in the state capitol involved utilizing the skills he learned as a member of the Ville Platte Voluntary Fire Department, springing into action to employ CPR on one of our Senate sergeant at arms, saving his life, but breaking a rib; and

WHEREAS, no farewell to Senator LaFleur would be complete without recognizing his multiple introductions to the state Senate during the last term, his dance lessons on the Senate floor, his rat pack of friends that help him accomplish some of his best work (at 2:00

a.m.), his trusty backpack, his love for Apple computers, his need for extra chargers for all of his electronic devices, and his infamous "This is America" Raw Milk speech; and

WHEREAS, as Senator LaFleur completes his final term in the Senate, after serving the state of Louisiana for twenty years, he will hopefully no longer have to manufacture "LaFleur Time" in order to spend more time with the four people who are his #1 priority, his wife of thirteen years, Julie, and their three children, Atticus, Amélie, and Alistair; and

WHEREAS, Senator LaFleur's colleagues hereby request the continuance of the pictures and videos of his children's events that he spent countless hours sharing as he criss-crossed the state attending baseball games and school events, along with updates on their newest family member, a labradoodle puppy, and of course, the beloved, "This could only happen to LaFleur" stories.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Honorable Eric LaFleur for two decades of invaluable public service in the Legislature of Louisiana and express enduring gratitude for his outstanding contributions to the people of District 28 and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Eric LaFleur and to his colleagues at 575 North 8th Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE