

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 238

BY SENATOR MILKOVICH

A RESOLUTION

To commend Foster Campbell on his illustrious and lengthy career in the service of the people of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Foster Campbell Jr. was born to Foster L. Campbell Sr. and Rubye Grigsby in Shreveport, Louisiana, on January 1, 1947; and

WHEREAS, Foster Campbell Jr. was educated in Bossier Parish schools and graduated from Bossier High School in 1965, moving to Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana, where he graduated with a bachelor of arts degree; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Campbell attended Louisiana State University and went on to teach school and work as an agriculture products salesman from 1972 through 1975; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, Foster Campbell entered his first race for elective office; the seat in the Louisiana State Senate representing District 36 in Northwest Louisiana, including portions of Bossier Parish; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Campbell was a member of the Democratic party and a strong supporter of Governor Edwin W. Edwards, an immensely powerful governor and a popular figure for most of his career; and

WHEREAS, Foster Campbell was reelected to a second four-year term in 1980, and subsequently reelected, serving in the body until 2002 when he ran, instead, for a seat on the Public Service Commission (PSC), representing District 5 on the five-member statewide regulatory body in charge of public utilities and the petroleum industry; and

WHEREAS, in his role with the PSC, Foster Campbell focuses on holding periodic townhall meetings for constituents to voice their concerns, primarily about matters of utility service; and

WHEREAS, in the 2014 primary election, Commissioner Campbell won his third term on the PSC by defeating the Republican candidate from Winnfield, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Foster Campbell and his second wife, Gwen, live in Elm Grove in Bossier Parish where he is a farmer and cattleman, remaining close to their children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, throughout his political career, Commissioner Campbell has often been referred to as a "populist", a description that he would generally agree to, as he has consistently seen himself as looking out for those who are not thought to wield significant political influence; basically, a group whose voice is not often heard; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Foster Campbell was deservedly inducted into the Louisiana Political Museum and Hall of Fame in Winnfield, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, Commissioner Campbell was chosen as the chairman of the PSC, and in 2014, he was elected to his third term on the commission; and

WHEREAS, Foster Campbell championed the case against predatory consumer loan practices; labored to eliminate the state income tax, and worked tirelessly to strengthen education in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Foster Campbell supported the pro-life cause in the famous fight over abortion in the state capitol in 1990, voting for a pro-life bill in the Louisiana Senate, and also voting to override the then governor's veto of the same pro-life measure; and

WHEREAS, Foster Campbell's entire career in public life has exemplified an extraordinary and courageous determination to take on special interests, a principled commitment to oppose lobbyists and bureaucrats, and a valiant devotion to fight for working families, the common man, and the middle class; and

WHEREAS, the extraordinary accomplishment of having served in elective office in Louisiana for more than five decades, amid the almost cataclysmic change from being an entirely Democratic state to an unquestionably Republican state, without having one's constituents become disenchanted with an officeholder and seeing serious inconsistencies in policy or approach, is not an accomplishment that all have been able to achieve, but Foster Campbell's constituents remain loyal and return him to representative office, affirming that he has represented them well and continues to serve their interests.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Foster Campbell on his illustrious and lengthy career in the service of the people of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Public Service Commissioner Foster Campbell.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE