

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY SENATORS CORTEZ AND BOUDREAUX

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Major Luraine Richard of the Lafayette Police Department upon her retirement, and to congratulate her for a distinguished public service career of thirty-six years in law enforcement.

WHEREAS, after witnessing crime firsthand while growing up in a rough neighborhood in Opelousas, Louisiana, Luraine Richard became an officer at age twenty-three with a two-year-old daughter at home and with a mission to effect a positive change in the community; and

WHEREAS, she served thirty-six years as a uniformed police officer with the Lafayette Police Department, becoming the first woman to move up through the ranks from patrol officer to major; and

WHEREAS, Luraine Richard graduated from the police academy and joined the Lafayette Police Department on January 9, 1985, which she cites as two of the most memorable moments in her career; and

WHEREAS, when she joined the department, she was only one of two women on the force and had to prove herself; and

WHEREAS, she served as a patrol officer, a training officer, and an investigator before becoming a sergeant in the juvenile section; she later advanced to the rank of lieutenant, eventually becoming an administrative lieutenant in 2008 for Precinct 1, a crime-prone area of downtown and north Lafayette, staying there through her promotion to

captain; and

WHEREAS, she worked as an investigator in youth services, dealing with juvenile cases, an adjustment that she loved as it provided a chance to reach kids which then reached the parents; and

WHEREAS, not only was Luraine Richard the longest-employed female officer in the department, she was the first to earn a supervisory role, trailblazing her way through promotions to sergeant, lieutenant, and captain; she was the first commander of an entire precinct, and the first woman to achieve the rank of major, making her one of three officers holding the most senior rank below chief; and

WHEREAS, Major Richard earned a reputation for being fair but firm with a strong work ethic and a professional demeanor, encouraging new officers coming into the department to find balance in their work, not taking it home with them, and treating people with respect; and

WHEREAS, Major Richard has been recognized for bringing a sense of calm, cool, collected, objective, rational thinking, reasonableness, and leadership to the department and the Lafayette community; and

WHEREAS, in retirement, she plans to spend more time with her three daughters, son, and three grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that a heartfelt measure of the highest commendation be extended to Luraine Richard for an outstanding career in the field of law enforcement and for her incomparable talents she has lent to the city of Lafayette and the state, whose citizens will long reap the benefits of her knowledge, expertise, compassion, and professional standard of excellence.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Major Luraine Richard of the Lafayette Police Department upon her retirement after a long and distinguished career of dedicated law enforcement service spanning thirty-six years, does hereby record for posterity her accomplishments, and express appreciation for the deep sense of pride and honor she brings to the Lafayette area and the state, and does hereby extend to her every good wish for success and happiness in all of her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
Major Luraine Richard.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES