

2021 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 80

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Joseph Seyler on the occasion of his retirement after twenty-five years of public service to the state.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Joseph Seyler on the occasion of his retirement after twenty-five years of  
3 public service to the state of Louisiana.

4 WHEREAS, Joseph Seyler, son of the late Joseph and Eileen Seyler, spent his early  
5 childhood in Tappan, New York, before moving to El Paso, Texas, where he graduated from  
6 Cathedral High School; and

7 WHEREAS, after high school, Joseph entered the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), a  
8 Catholic order of priests; he was in the novitiate at Grand Coteau, Louisiana, for two years  
9 before being sent to undergraduate studies at Loyola University in New Orleans, where he  
10 earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in English; and

11 WHEREAS, upon graduation, Joseph was sent to teach English at Strake Jesuit High  
12 School in Houston, and while in Houston, after eight years with the order, he decided to  
13 leave the Jesuits, but did not leave teaching; he returned to New Orleans and taught English  
14 at De La Salle High School; and

15 WHEREAS, deciding to continue his education in New York City, Joseph earned his  
16 Master of Arts degree in English at Columbia University and his Juris Doctorate from The  
17 Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University; and

18 WHEREAS, returning to Texas, Joseph clerked for Federal Judge Howell Cobb in

1 Beaumont, Texas, and briefly worked at two small law firms before finding his calling at the  
2 Louisiana Mental Health Advocacy Service (MHAS), where he found a new way to serve  
3 God by serving those most in need-those with mental illnesses, and children in abuse and  
4 neglect situations; and

5 WHEREAS, over the last twenty-five years, Joseph advanced in the agency, moving  
6 from staff attorney, to supervising attorney to deputy general counsel, and finally, to director  
7 of the agency; and

8 WHEREAS, although his title and duties might have changed over the years, his  
9 determination to honor the agency goal-ensuring that his clients' voices were heard, and that  
10 they received every right and remedy afforded to them under law-never did; and

11 WHEREAS, Joseph has been a respected colleague, mentor, friend, and leader to  
12 those in and around MHAS, and during his tenure as Director, Joseph successfully guided  
13 MHAS through a state computer hacking threat, an historic flood, two devastating  
14 hurricanes, a crippling ice storm, and a world pandemic, while still finding time to become  
15 certified as a Child Welfare Law Specialist by the National Association of Counsel for  
16 Children; and

17 WHEREAS, maintaining his close ties to the church, Joseph served as a member of  
18 his local church's Parish Council, taught confirmation classes, and sang in the church choir  
19 while also making time to volunteer at Catholic Charities in their Community Garden; and

20 WHEREAS, perhaps most importantly, Joseph has been a great husband and father,  
21 and his wife, Jean Dresley, and daughter, Nora, feel so lucky to have him in their lives.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
23 does hereby commend Joseph Seyler on the occasion of his retirement; does hereby  
24 acknowledge his lifelong dedication to public service, to his family, and to his church; and  
25 does hereby extend sincere wishes of continued good health and growth for Joseph Seyler  
26 as he begins this latest chapter in his life.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
28 Joseph Seyler.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Lebra R. Bias.

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SR 80 Original	DIGEST 2021 Regular Session	Boudreaux
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Commends Joseph Seyler on the occasion of his retirement after 25 years of public service to the state.