SLS 23RS-1681 **ORIGINAL**

2023 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 89

BY SENATOR CORTEZ

COMMENDATIONS. Commends and congratulates Will Sentell on the occasion of his retirement from a distinguished career in journalism.

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To commend and congratulate Will Sentell on the occasion of his retirement from a
3	distinguished career in journalism.
4	WHEREAS, Will Sentell was born in Corpus Christi, Texas, the second of three
5	children born to Bill and Nancy Sentell; and
6	WHEREAS, Will Sentell was raised in Shreveport, Louisiana, and proudly attended
7	C.E. Byrd High School; and
8	WHEREAS, upon high school graduation, he attended Louisiana State University
9	(LSU) in Baton Rouge where he studied journalism and worked at The Daily Reveille
10	newspaper, where his colleagues included John LaPlante and Randy McClain, both of whom
11	later became his coworkers at The Advocate and Will's good friends; and
12	WHEREAS, Will has had a distinguished career in journalism, spending forty-nine
13	years as a statehouse reporter across four states, tracking legislative sessions, political
14	campaigns, and the workings of state government; and
15	WHEREAS, Will covered eleven governors across his career including Mike Foster,
16	Kathleen Blanco, Bobby Jindal, and John Bel Edwards in Louisiana; Bill Waller and Cliff
17	Finch in Missouri; Davie Boren and George Nigh in Oklahoma; and Christopher Bond, John
18	Ashcroft, and Mel Carnahan in Mississippi; and

1	WHEREAS, Will Sentell's first job in journalism was at the Jackson Daily News in
2	Jackson, Mississippi, in 1975 and, a year later, he moved to Oklahoma to work for the
3	Oklahoma Journal and then the Tulsa Tribune; and
4	WHEREAS, while in Oklahoma on election day in 1978, as he covered the United
5	States Senate race, Will met Donna, the love of his life, and they were married in May 1979;
6	and
7	WHEREAS, Will and his wife Donna moved to Jefferson City, Missouri, in 1981,
8	where he worked with distinction at the Kansas City Star for nineteen years; and
9	WHEREAS, Will's longest tenure as a reporter came at <i>The Advocate</i> newspaper in
10	Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and
11	WHEREAS, to get the job in 2000, Will submitted an email describing his
12	connection to Louisiana and his interest in a Capitol Bureau position; and
13	WHEREAS, the response to his email came from his former Reveille colleague, John
14	LaPlante, who asked if "This is the same Will Sentell who went to LSU?"; and
15	WHEREAS, Will was hired in April 2000 and was able to work again with his
16	Reveille coworkers, John LaPlante and Randy McClain; and
17	WHEREAS, Will spent twenty-three years at The Advocate, covering public
18	education and transportation issues; he became such an expert of these subjects that other
19	reporters, advocates, and political watchers routinely sought information from him, and he
20	served as a mentor to many who passed through the offices of Press Row at the Louisiana
21	State Capitol; and
22	WHEREAS, Will was always generous with his time, checked in on his colleagues,
23	offered guidance to new journalists, and worked the long hours of a statehouse reporter with
24	kindness and grace; and
25	WHEREAS, Will loved to discuss the latest news and scores for LSU football and
26	often could be found during downtime in his office or on the floor in the house or senate
27	chambers checking out football message boards for the latest gossip about the team and its
28	coaches; and
29	WHEREAS, once his adored granddaughter was born, Will loved to trade stories
30	with lawmakers and colleagues about their children and grandchildren; and

1	WHEREAS, Will is known among those he covered and those who watched his work
2	as a fair reporter and a straight shooter who spent hours sitting in education and
3	transportation hearings to understand the perspectives of all sides; he worked humbly, never
4	drawing attention to himself while explaining complex issues with ease; and
5	WHEREAS, Will retired from The Advocate on March 31, 2023, and he left the
6	Louisiana capitol as he had worked during his long journalism career: seeking little attention
7	or fanfare, even working on a story on his last day in the office while people stopped by to
8	celebrate his long career; and
9	WHEREAS, at his core, Will is a devoted family man, kind person, and dedicated
10	friend; and
11	WHEREAS, Will and Donna have two grown sons, William (wife Kristen) and
12	Jeffrey, and a granddaughter, Victoria Alyse; and
13	WHEREAS, Will loves running, biking, reading, baseball, LSU football, and doting
14	on Victoria; he is a devoted Catholic who attends Saint Aloysius Catholic Church and assists
15	with altar set-ups at weekday and Saturday afternoon masses.
16	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
17	does hereby commend and congratulate Will Sentell on the occasion of his retirement from
18	a distinguished career in journalism.
19	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
20	Will Sentell.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Kathy Liberty.

DIGEST 2023 Regular Session

SR 89 Original

Cortez

Commends and congratulates Will Sentell on the occasion of his retirement from a distinguished career in journalism.