

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 100

BY SENATORS CORTEZ, ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BARROW, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, DUPLESSIS, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HARRIS, HENRY, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, KLEINPETER, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, MORRIS, PEACOCK, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, STINE, TALBOT, TARVER, WHITE AND WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Honorable Louie Bernard on his forty-four years of dedicated public service to the state of Louisiana and to express enduring gratitude for his outstanding contributions made on behalf of his constituents of the parishes of Grant, Natchitoches, Rapides, Red River, Sabine, and Winn.

WHEREAS, Senator Louis C. "Louie" Bernard is one of seven children born to Henry and Jessie Bernard in Natchitoches, Louisiana; he attended Natchitoches High School and is a proud graduate of Northwestern State University; and

WHEREAS, Senator Bernard began his career in public service as Secretary of the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury where he served for sixteen years before running for Clerk of Court of Natchitoches Parish; and

WHEREAS, Senator Bernard served twenty-four years as Clerk of Court of Natchitoches Parish; while serving as the clerk of court, Senator Bernard served as the President of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association from 1999 to 2000 and again from 2010 to 2011; and

WHEREAS, while serving as the Clerk of Court for Natchitoches Parish, Senator Bernard was known for the integrity he brought to the office, the positive relationships he fostered with judges, staff, and attorneys, and his recruitment of local Northwestern State University students for positions at the court; and

WHEREAS, often in attendance at festivals, parades, and events, Senator Bernard readily shows how much he dearly loves the people of Natchitoches Parish; and

WHEREAS, being the ever eloquent, silver-tongued devil he is, Senator Bernard is always in demand as the master of ceremonies of countless parish, state, and national events;

and

WHEREAS, as part of the immense pride he has in serving the people of Natchitoches Parish, he also uses his gift with words, whether spoken or with the stroke of a pen, to console many families during life's difficult times; and

WHEREAS, Senator Bernard retired as the Clerk of Court of Natchitoches Parish in 2016, and his service was celebrated at the Louisiana Clerks of Court annual retirement luncheon in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, after a brief rest, Senator Bernard desired to continue his public service and in 2020, he filed to be a candidate for the Louisiana State Senate District 31 seat representing Natchitoches, Rapides, Red River, Sabine, and Winn Parishes; and

WHEREAS, on Monday, January 13, 2020, in the Louisiana State Senate Chamber, Senator Bernard took the oath of office and was officially seated as the State Senator from Louisiana Senate District 31; and

WHEREAS, a humble man with dry wit and a sense of humor, Senator Bernard brought with him to the Louisiana State Senate the same desire and dedication to serve the constituents who elected him to the office and serve all citizens of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, a natural problem solver, Senator Bernard focuses on details and is open to sit at the table and work with others to address their concerns; and

WHEREAS, Senator Bernard's committee assignments include Senate Committee on Insurance, serving as the vice chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development, Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works, Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs, as an interim member, Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay, and Legislative Audit Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2022, Senator Bernard announced that he would not be seeking reelection; the completion of his term as state senator will end forty-four years of dedicated and distinguished public service; and

WHEREAS, family is extremely important to Senator Bernard and he plans to spend his time with his wife, Gayle, sons, Brandon and Clay, daughter, Anne, and his four grandchildren, and many hours watching his grandchildren play ball; and

WHEREAS, Senator Louie Bernard will continue to be an active member of the Natchitoches community; he is a lifelong member of the First United Methodist Church in Natchitoches and an active alumnus of Northwestern State University where he diligently works with the collegiate sponsor of Phi Beta Lambda, the collegiate version of Future Business Leaders of America, to ensure that students that come from all over the state are successful at Northwestern State University.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Honorable Louie Bernard for his years of distinguished public service to the state of Louisiana and expresses enduring gratitude for his outstanding contributions made on behalf of the constituents of the parishes of Grant, Natchitoches, Rapides, Red River, Sabine, and Winn.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express enduring gratitude to Senator Bernard for his service to the citizens of Louisiana and extend to him the most sincere wishes for many years of success and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE