

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 165

BY SENATORS HEITMEIER AND ALARIO

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Belinda Constant as the first woman mayor of Gretna, Louisiana.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Belinda Constant upon her election as the first woman to serve as mayor of
3 Gretna, Louisiana.

4 WHEREAS, Belinda Constant began her elective office public service as a city
5 council member in Gretna and on April 6, 2013, she was elected mayor of that city, being
6 the first woman to so serve; and

7 WHEREAS, this mayoral election was greatly anticipated in the community as the
8 previous mayor, having served as mayor through seven terms decided not to run, leaving two
9 members of the city council to face off in the mayoral race; and

10 WHEREAS, Belinda was first elected to the Gretna City Council in 2005, just a few
11 short months before the greater New Orleans area was devastated by Hurricane Katrina and
12 its aftermath and she was reelected in 2010 without opposition; and

13 WHEREAS, Belinda is a native of New Orleans and a longtime resident of Gretna,
14 Louisiana; and

15 WHEREAS, Belinda graduated from Archbishop Blenk High School (now combined
16 to form the Academy of Our Lady, a Catholic high school for girls in Marrero) and attended
17 Louisiana State University; she is married to Ronnie Constant, and they have raised three
18 children on the Westbank; and

1 WHEREAS, her work history includes ownership and operation of a court reporting
2 business and service as the administrator of both the Jefferson Parish Intensive Probation
3 Drug Court and the Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals from which she is now retired;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, during her campaign for mayor, Belinda touted her experience, gleaned
6 from having taken office mere months before Katrina, in navigating federal agencies to
7 secure resources and reimbursements as a significant qualification for serving as Gretna's
8 mayor; and

9 WHEREAS, her civic involvements have been many, including participation in the
10 Council for a Better Louisiana Leadership Program in 2006, and work for St. Joseph Church
11 development, Gretna Economic Development Association, Gretna Farmers Market and
12 Artwalk, Gretna Heritage Festival, Gretna Historical Society, Friends of the German-
13 American Cultural Center, Friends of Jefferson the Beautiful, Jefferson Historical Society,
14 the Louisiana Municipal Association, and the Louisiana Association of Drug Court
15 professionals; and

16 WHEREAS, her plans for her first term as mayor of Gretna include continuing to
17 explore and develop economic opportunities by seeking parish, state, and federal grants, to
18 upgrade the greatly stressed utility systems in the area, and to continue to expand social and
19 recreational opportunities for the citizens of Gretna, with a special focus on senior citizens
20 and youth.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
22 does hereby commend Belinda Constant upon her election as the first woman to serve as
23 mayor of Gretna, Louisiana.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
25 Honorable Belinda Constant, mayor of Gretna, Louisiana.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

DIGEST

Heitmeier

SR No. 165

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