

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 142

BY SENATOR CLAITOR

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Sue Bernie upon the occasion of her retirement from the East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney's Office and to recognize her exemplary public service during the many years of her extraordinary career.

WHEREAS, Ettie Sue Bernie has announced her retirement as the East Baton Rouge Parish assistant district attorney, closing the extraordinary prosecutorial career of a woman who has demonstrated unparalleled ability in her many years of public service to the people of East Baton Rouge Parish and to the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, she graduated from H. Sophie Newcomb Memorial College with a bachelor of arts degree and from the University of Florida Law School, being admitted to the Florida bar in 1978; and

WHEREAS, Sue Bernie was admitted to the Louisiana bar on October 17, 1980, worked for three years at the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office before joining the staff of the East Baton Rouge District Attorney's Office in 1986, and has been the section chief of the office's sex crimes division since 1988; and

WHEREAS, she has come in contact with thousands of children and adults victimized by sexual and physical abuse, from as young as age three to as old as age ninety-nine, during her more than three-decade career of seeking justice for victims of sexual and physical assault; and

WHEREAS, having handled thousands of sex crimes cases in her career and tried more such jury trials than any other sex crimes prosecutor, Sue Bernie has been a tireless champion for sexual assault victims in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, she blazed a path previously untraveled, and her expertise and skill in the realm of sex crime prosecution is such that people from all over the state look to her for advice and guidance in sexual assault-related matters; and

WHEREAS, Sue Bernie played a large role in the creation of the Baton Rouge Children's Advocacy Center in 2002, a "child-friendly" environment where young victims

can be interviewed by law enforcement and child protection workers, and to which, in recent years, more therapy services have been added for children and their families; and

WHEREAS, she has testified numerous times before the Legislature and was instrumental in having the spousal exception removed from the state's rape statute in 1990; she has been a district attorney representative on the Children's Advocacy Center board and will continue as an ad hoc member in her retirement; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault annually presents the Sue Bernie Justice Award to deserving recipients; and

WHEREAS, the people of East Baton Rouge Parish and the state of Louisiana have benefitted from the service of Sue Bernie, whose fine legal mind and distinctive accomplishments have brought immense pride not only to her state but to all those who have been fortunate to have had the benefit of her knowledge and commitment to justice; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to take proper notice of the accomplishments of Sue Bernie and to express the appreciation of the members of the Senate for her exceptional public service.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Sue Bernie upon the occasion of her retirement from the East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney's Office and acknowledge with tremendous gratitude her outstanding contribution to the administration of justice in her community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend to her all the best wishes for success and happiness in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Sue Bernie.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE