

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROMERO AND SENATOR ABRAHAM

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Bennett R. Lapoint, assistant district attorney of Jefferson Davis Parish, on his retirement.

WHEREAS, Bennett R. Lapoint became the first member of his family to attend college when he was accepted into McNeese State University; while at McNeese State University, he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and graduated with magna cum laude honors; after completing his undergraduate studies, he chose to continue his education at the Louisiana State University School of Law and graduated with a Juris Doctor degree in 1980; and

WHEREAS, upon earning his J.D. degree, Mr. Lapoint immediately returned to his hometown of Lake Arthur, Louisiana, to practice law; in 1980, he was appointed to serve on the Jefferson Davis Indigent Defender Board and ultimately served as chairman of the board until January 1, 1991; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lapoint continued his law practice until 1990, and in 1991, he was appointed as a full-time assistant district attorney in the Thirty-First Judicial District by Michael C. Cassidy, district attorney; Mr. Lapoint served as assistant district attorney until January 31, 2020, and during his tenure, he also served as first assistant district attorney; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lapoint's primary focus during his time as assistant district attorney was the handling of narcotics cases, and he is recognized throughout the state of Louisiana as a leading authority on search and seizure; he helped educate a number of prosecutors and law enforcement officers on the laws relating to narcotics cases; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lapoint was also responsible for drug asset forfeiture cases, including the largest narcotics seizure in Louisiana history, valued at \$3.4 million, which he argued all the way to the United States Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lapoint's service went beyond prosecution; he initiated the drug intervention program in Jefferson Davis Parish which allows young, first-time drug offenders to obtain treatment in lieu of jail time for simple possession of narcotics; successful completion of the intervention program allowed participants to avoid a felony conviction on their records; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lapoint recognized that addiction is an illness that requires treatment rather than incarceration and he was very proud of the young men and women who, through successful completion of the intervention program, were able to regain control of their lives; Bennett R. Lapoint has been a truly exemplary servant to the people of Louisiana, and his work as assistant district attorney in the Thirty-First Judicial District is undoubtedly deserving of recognition.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Bennett R. Lapoint on the occasion of his retirement as assistant district attorney of Jefferson Davis Parish; does hereby express most sincere appreciation for his efforts to help reform communities afflicted by drug abuse; and does hereby extend hopes and wishes for his continued good health and prosperity as he begins a new journey in retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Bennett R. Lapoint.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE