

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 47

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON AND SENATORS ABRAHAM, BARROW, BASS, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CONNICK, DUPLESSIS, EDMONDS, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HODGES, JACKSON-ANDREWS, JENKINS, KLEINPETER, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MILLER, MIZELL, MORRIS, OWEN, PRESSLY, PRICE, SEABAUGH, TALBOT, AND WOMACK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Joe R. Salter, former speaker of the House, on the occasion of his retirement from public service.

WHEREAS, Joe is a native of the village of Florien in Sabine Parish, Louisiana, and he graduated from Florien High School; he received both a bachelor's and master's degree from Northwestern State University in addition to completing thirty additional hours of graduate studies; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Salter is an incredibly civic-minded individual who has served the state of Louisiana in various capacities; he is a former alderman of the village of Florien, a former teacher in Sabine Parish and Vernon Parish, a former auditor for the Caddo Parish School System, a former principal of Florien High School, and a former assistant superintendent of Sabine Parish schools; and

WHEREAS, Joe represented District 24 in the Louisiana House of Representatives from 1986 until 2008; he also served with great distinction as the sixty-second speaker of the House; during his time in the legislature, he served as chair of the House Legislative Bureau and the Rural Legislative Task Force, as vice chair of the House Committee on Education, and as a member of numerous committees including the House Committee on Appropriations, the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, and the Joint Committee on Capital Outlay; and

WHEREAS, as speaker, Joe demonstrated his outstanding leadership skills by expertly guiding the House and Louisiana's citizens during the aftermaths of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita; he provided strength, dignity, and determination throughout the unprecedented recovery process and helped the citizens of Louisiana to endeavor to rebuild the state; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Salter has been the deserving recipient of numerous honors and awards including the Champion of Senior Citizen Issues in Louisiana Special Award from the Louisiana Council on Aging, the Fleur de Lis Health Care Leadership Award, the Guardian of Small Business Award, and the Louisiana Public Broadcasting President's Award; he is a three-time Legislative Golden Apple Award winner, and he has been twice honored by the Louisiana Federation of Teachers with the Representative of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Salter is affiliated with a number of professional, civic, and business organizations including the National Conference of State Legislatures and its education committee; the advisory council of the Southern Regional Education Board; the Education Commission of the States; the board of directors of the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts; the advisory board of Northwestern State University at Fort Polk in Leesville; the Coushatta-Red River and Sabine Parish Chambers of Commerce; the Florien Lions Club; the Many Rotary Club; Phi Kappa Phi; the Blue Key Honor Fraternity; Phi Delta Kappa; the Toledo Bend Citizens Advisory Committee; and the Toledo Bend Lake Association; and

WHEREAS, after the end of his House service, Mr. Salter continued his state public service as the director of governmental relations for the state Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Salter's wife, Bettye, and their children and grandchildren celebrate with him as he enters the next chapter of their lives together; and

WHEREAS, Representative Francis Thompson paid tribute to Mr. Salter on his election as Speaker: "I don't believe I have met anyone with more integrity, honesty, loyalty, and ability to get along with people than Joe Salter"; and

WHEREAS, Joe most recently served as the first assistant to the Louisiana Secretary of State; for nearly four decades, he has committed his unique blend of intelligence, compassion, and dauntless courage to the service of the state, and he is most deserving of the highest recognition for his work.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Joe R. Salter on the occasion of his retirement from public service and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that he continue to prosper in all of his endeavors as he begins a new journey in retirement.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE