

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 140

BY SENATORS ALARIO, ADLEY, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE AND REPRESENTATIVES KLECKLEY, ABRAMSON, ADAMS, ANDERS, ARMES, ARNOLD, BADON, BARRAS, BARROW, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, STUART BISHOP, WESLEY BISHOP, BROADWATER, BROSSETT, BROWN, BURFORD, HENRY BURNS, TIM BURNS, BURRELL, CARMODY, CARTER, CHAMPAGNE, CHANEY, CONNICK, COX, CROMER, DANAHAY, DIXON, DOVE, EDWARDS, FANNIN, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GAROFALO, GEYMANN, GISCLAIR, GREENE, GUILLORY, GUINN, HARRIS, HARRISON, HAVARD, HAZEL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HONORE, HOWARD, HUNTER, HUVAL, GIROD JACKSON, KATRINA JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JOHNSON, JONES, LAMBERT, NANCY LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LIGI, LOPINTO, LORUSSO, MACK, MILLER, MONTOUCET, MORENO, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, NORTON, ORTEGO, PEARSON, PIERRE, PONTI, POPE, PRICE, PUGH, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, RICHARDSON, RITCHIE, ROBIDEAUX, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHRODER, SEABAUGH, SHADOIN, SIMON, SMITH, ST. GERMAIN, TALBOT, THIBAUT, THIERRY, THOMPSON, WHITNEY, ALFRED WILLIAMS, PATRICK WILLIAMS AND WILLMOTT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the Honorable Catherine D. "Kitty" Kimball, Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, for a lifetime of exemplary public service to the state and its judicial system and for twenty years of that service as a justice on the Supreme Court, and to congratulate her honor upon the occasion of her retirement from the bench.

WHEREAS, it is with a profound sense of gratitude that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby celebrate the illustrious career of this outstanding Louisiana jurist, Chief Justice Kitty Kimball; a vocation that has spanned over four decades and has encompassed laudable achievements in all ranks of the state judiciary; and

WHEREAS, Justice Kimball is a veritable pillar of the Louisiana legal community, having profoundly affected the laws, rights, and property of the citizens of Louisiana as a member of the Louisiana Bar Association, as special counsel to the Louisiana Attorney General's office, as general counsel for the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, and as both Assistant District Attorney and District Judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District Court; and as a Supreme Court Justice, winning an election in 1992, to the Supreme Court of this state as an associate justice, and at the retirement of

Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero Jr., ascended to the lofty position of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court from January 2009, until the present; and

WHEREAS, Justice Kimball lays claim to many "firsts" in her life, as the first female judge elected to the Eighteenth Judicial District, as the first woman elected to the Louisiana Supreme Court and to serve as its first female chief justice, however, it is of less concern about her gender and far more notably appreciation of her qualities of character, diligence, perseverance, and social activism that shall be reminiscent of her tenure on the bench; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, when Justice Kimball first arrived at court, some time-honored traditions quickly fell by the wayside, such as, the most junior justice "holds the door" for the exit of senior justices from the conference room; and the number and placement of ladies "facilities" within the courthouse increased dramatically; and

WHEREAS, Justice Kimball is proud of the fact that she broke through the court's "glass ceiling" of gender and paved the way for Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson and Justice Jeanette Knoll who presently serve on the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, as chief justice, Kitty Kimball put forth a vision statement for the court to offer direction and guidance, to work efficiently and appropriately, and to give equal weight to the disposition of all cases before the court, whether high profile lawsuits or issues of children and family law; and

WHEREAS, Kitty Kimball is an individual of great intellect and insight having earned a juris doctorate from the Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center; and having receipt of several special recognitions from her alma mater for her extraordinary legal expertise that include the LSU Alumni Association Hall of Distinction Award, Outstanding Alumni of the LSU Law Center, honorary member of Louisiana Chapter of the Order of the Coif, and the *Esprit de Femme* Award from the LSU Women's Center; and

WHEREAS, Justice Kitty Kimball has distinguished herself as a social activist of the highest caliber, as an advocate for juvenile justice and the preservation of the legal rights of the under served, and as a diligent champion for women and children's issues; and

WHEREAS, Justice Kimball has been honored with many well-deserved accolades far too numerous to count that include tributes from the CASA Association, the YWCA, Victims and Citizens Against Crime, Crimestoppers, Inc., the Association of Drug Court

Professionals, and honored with receipt of the Louisiana Champion of Juvenile Justice Award and induction into both the Louisiana Political Museum and Hall of Fame and the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Justice Kimball was instrumental in the establishment of the Sunshine Foundation, a nonprofit organization, that distributes free books to Louisiana's pre-school students to promote the idealistic virtues of integrity, honesty, respect, and responsibility, and to encourage a sense of self worth for children to carry into adulthood; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the courts in southern Louisiana were in disarray with defendants, attorneys, and case records scattered to the four winds, Associate Justice Kimball stepped into the fray to coordinate emergency legal necessities between the governor's office and state, local, and federal officials, to lend aid wherever possible, and to begin to help rebuild the region's judicial system brick by brick as chairman of the Court Committee for the Southeast Louisiana Criminal Justice Recovery Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the many accomplishments of Chief Justice Kitty Kimball have positively impacted the social ecology of this state; and

WHEREAS, as a compassionate pro-active altruist, she has worked arduously for the causes of social justice and has lent her leadership skills and abilities to every facet of Louisiana's legal system; and

WHEREAS, married since June 1967 to Clyde W. Kimball, their lives together have been filled with love and laughter, three beautiful children; Kevin, Catherine, and Lyria, six precious grandchildren, and a host of loyal colleagues and true friends; and

WHEREAS, Justice Kitty Kimball has lent her hands, her heart, and her irrepressible will to all manner of public service here in Louisiana and we as a society are better for her efforts; and

WHEREAS, Justice Kitty Kimball is a classic lady, charismatic and good-natured, as well known for her legal mind as for her quick wit, sparkling eyes, and contagious smile; and

WHEREAS, on January 12, 1993, at her supreme court induction ceremony, then Governor Edwin Edwards stated, *"Well done, we wish you well, and Godspeed. We know you*

*are going to make just one more bright shining star in the judicial system of Louisiana.*"; and those words have come to fruition and that acclaim still rings true today.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Chief Justice Catherine D. "Kitty" Kimball for her many years of tireless public service to the citizenry of the state of Louisiana and for her many contributions to the effectiveness and efficiency of the state's highest court.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby congratulate Justice Kimball upon the occasion of her retirement in January 2013, and does hereby wish for her continued success in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Catherine D. "Kitty" Kimball, Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES