

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 79

BY SENATORS PEACOCK AND GATTI

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend D. C. Machen Jr., superintendent of schools for the Bossier Parish School Board, for his many contributions to public education, for numerous improvements in classroom instruction and efficiency, and for forty-two years of invaluable public service in the teaching profession.

WHEREAS, it is with great pride that the members of the Legislature of Louisiana, recognize D. C. Machen Jr. as an outstanding teacher, principal, and administrator and congratulate him upon his pending retirement from the Bossier Parish school system in July, 2016; and

WHEREAS, D. C. Machen has worked tirelessly for the benefit of public school education by improvements in classroom experiences, with application of new technologies and critical thinking skills and the furtherance of STEM curricula that includes advanced pursuits in science, engineering, and mathematics; and

WHEREAS, these academic benchmarks were achieved, in part, with new approaches to classroom instruction which allow for more concentrated instruction time and study with fewer interruptions; and

WHEREAS, D. C. Machen believes that a partnership exists between academics and leadership development and that energies expended toward leadership training for students, parents, faculty, and administrators reap the greatest rewards; and

WHEREAS, under his tutelage, scholastic achievement has been augmented with character education and a community service initiative, "Helping Hearts: The Power of We"; a service project that exposes the student to a high level of personal commitment to the community and contributes positively to the fulfillment of a well-appointed individual; and

WHEREAS, his odyssey in education began in 1974, when D. C. obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Northeast Louisiana University, now known as University of Louisiana at Monroe; and he would later garner a master's degree in Educational Administration from Louisiana State University; and

WHEREAS, his teaching career originated at Plantation Park Elementary where he taught science and social studies and coached athletics, then he later coached football, basketball, and track at his alma mater, Rusheon Junior High School; and

WHEREAS, his ascent in leadership began as administrative assistant and later principal at Greenacres Junior High, then principal of Airline High School; in 1999, he was named assistant superintendent of administration and personnel at the board; and in 2009, was promoted to superintendent of schools in Bossier Parish; and

WHEREAS, D. C. Machen was instrumental in the development of the Long Range Planning Committee, a task force assembled to study student overcrowding and provide effective utilization of school facilities; those efforts brought about the passage of two separate bond elections that approved nearly \$300 million in new construction, repairs, and improvements to school properties; and

WHEREAS, D. C. was well known for his application of enhanced educational technologies that included mentoring programs in junior high, successful administration of Prospective Administrator Leadership Seminars (PALS), a program to better prepare future leaders for positions in the school administrations; implementation of the parish-wide Positive Behavior Support Program, and establishment of the Over-age Eighth Grade Program at Butler Educational Complex; and

WHEREAS, he has been honored with numerous awards and recognitions that include being named Outstanding Young Educator by the Bossier Jaycees and selection as Bossier Parish High School Principal of the Year in 1997 and 1999; and

WHEREAS, D. C. has created a Christian home and a family of teachers; his wife and Bossier High School sweetheart, Maria Bouso is a retired teacher, and their two children, Kyle and Leigh, are also educators; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, D. C. Machen has affected the learning opportunities of two generations of Bossier Parish school students and has shared a lifetime of invaluable knowledge with teachers and administrators in development of educational leadership; and

WHEREAS, D. C. Machen has proved himself to be a man of many talents, a man of his word, and a man whose dedication to education has left a priceless gift to the citizens of Bossier Parish and to the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Superintendent D. C. Machen Jr. for forty-two years of service to Bossier Parish and its school board, and for his many accomplishments made on behalf of the betterment of public education and the teaching profession.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby congratulate D. C. Machen Jr. upon the occasion of his retirement from the Bossier Parish School Board and wish for him the very best in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Bossier Parish School Board Superintendent D. C. Machen Jr.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES