

Regular Session, 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 153

BY SENATOR RISER

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Senator Robert M. "Rob" Marionneaux Jr. for dedicated public service as a state representative and state senator.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To honor and commend the Honorable Robert "Rob" M. Marionneaux Jr. for his dedicated  
3 service and outstanding contributions to the citizens of the parishes of Iberville,  
4 Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, West  
5 Feliciana, and St. Helena, and to the state of Louisiana, during his sixteen years of  
6 noble leadership as a distinguished member of the Louisiana Legislature, serving  
7 twelve years in the Louisiana Senate representing District 17, and four years in the  
8 Louisiana House of Representatives representing District 18, and to express eternal  
9 gratitude for making Louisiana a better place for all citizens of this state.

10 WHEREAS, Robert M. Marionneaux Jr. a practicing attorney in Baton Rouge, is  
11 married to Keely Williams Marionneaux, has one son, Robert M. Marionneaux III, and  
12 resides in Grosse Tete; and

13 WHEREAS, Robert M. Marionneaux Jr. a native son and lifelong resident of  
14 Louisiana, was born on October 7, 1968, in Baton Rouge, to Patricia Smith Marionneaux and  
15 the late Robert M. Marionneaux Sr. and grew up on a small rural farm in Maringouin; and

16 WHEREAS, Rob graduated from Catholic High of Pointe Coupee, and went on to  
17 attend Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, where he received his Bachelor of  
18 Science Degree in Criminal Justice, and a minor in psychology and sociology, and was a

1 member of Sigma Nu fraternity; and

2 WHEREAS, being interested in government and serving people, Rob ran for and was  
3 elected to serve as the Criminal Justice Representative on the General College Student  
4 Council, and thereafter was elected president of LSU's largest college, The General College;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, in 1995, he graduated from Southern University Law Center, where he  
7 was on the Dean's List, and represented the Law Center in various capacities, including  
8 being elected Vice-President, the first Caucasian student representative at Southern, and  
9 participating in trial competition where he and his teammates won Best Brief and Best Oral  
10 Argument; and

11 WHEREAS, in May 1995, Rob married Keely Williams, who fell in love with the  
12 young man on the tractor, the fierce lawyer ready to take on the world, and the heart of a  
13 man not afraid to stand up for his beliefs, or speak out for others, and who wanted to make  
14 this world a better place; and

15 WHEREAS, on their honeymoon, Keely recalls Rob telling her "I think I'm going  
16 to run for office," and she smiles while remembering them campaigning and walking  
17 door-to-door, and how Rob wore out the soles of his cowboy boots, and how she will never  
18 forget making homemade signs and t-shirts in Rob's first campaign headquarters, their living  
19 room; and

20 WHEREAS, at the age of twenty-seven, Robert M. Marionneaux Jr., a country boy  
21 wanting to serve the people, was elected in 1996 to serve as the State Representative for  
22 District 18 in the Louisiana House of Representatives, representing parts of Iberville, Pointe  
23 Coupee, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana parishes, and was appointed to serve on the  
24 administration of criminal justice; transportation, highways, and public works; and  
25 agriculture committees; and

26 WHEREAS, during his first term in office, on April 26, 1998, Representative  
27 Marionneaux and his wife were blessed with a son, Robert, their pride and joy, whose first  
28 outing was to be introduced on the House floor at two months old; and

29 WHEREAS, after serving one term in the House of Representatives, Rob was elected  
30 in November 2000 to serve as the State Senator for District 17 in the Louisiana Senate,

1 representing all or parts of East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, St.  
2 Helena, and West Baton Rouge parishes, and was appointed to serve on the agriculture,  
3 forestry, aquaculture, and rural development, and joint capital outlay committees; and

4 WHEREAS, Senator Marionneaux was re-elected for a second term in 2004 and was  
5 appointed Chairman of the Judiciary B Committee, which oversees the criminal justice  
6 system, including juvenile justice, the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and  
7 Corrections, and all gaming issues, and was also appointed to serve on the Senate and  
8 governmental affairs, revenue and fiscal affairs, and consumer affairs and technology  
9 committees; and

10 WHEREAS, having a special interest and deep appreciation for the military, Senator  
11 Marionneaux started the Annual Senate Military Family Day in 2005 to honor and officially  
12 recognize Louisiana's fallen soldiers and their families during a legislative session for the  
13 ultimate sacrifice made by them in defense of our freedoms; and

14 WHEREAS, since the beginning of Military Family Day, the Senate has honored 167  
15 fallen military heroes and their families, and Senator Marionneaux authored legislation,  
16 signed into law in 2007, which increases soldier death benefits to help families ease the  
17 financial strain as they cope with the loss of their loved one; and

18 WHEREAS, his love of all people truly shined in 2005 when, after Hurricane Katrina  
19 destroyed New Orleans and forever changed the history of Louisiana, Senator Marionneaux  
20 was on the ground shortly after helping fellow Louisianians who lost everything in the  
21 storm, bringing 18-wheeler trucks loaded with supplies to needy people, coordinating a  
22 water-borne relief effort for the people of St. Bernard Parish who were completely  
23 devastated, and visiting each shelter in his district meeting, comforting, and assisting the  
24 people in need; and

25 WHEREAS, in response to Hurricane Katrina, he was appointed the Chairman of the  
26 Joint Capital Area Subcommittee on Disaster Planning, Crisis Management, Recovery, and  
27 Long-Term Revitalization, helping citizens try to get their lives back to normal after the  
28 storm and addressing concerns and plans for future hurricanes; and

29 WHEREAS, being equally as passionate about service, the legislature, the military,  
30 and moving this state forward, Senator Marionneaux is focused on improving the lives and

1 health of all Louisiana citizens, and authored the Louisiana Smokefree Air Act, which  
2 became law on January 1, 2007, and prohibits smoking in public places, including  
3 restaurants, schools, school buses, school campuses, public buildings, and places of  
4 employment; and

5 WHEREAS, he was chosen by the Louisiana Public Health Association as the  
6 recipient of the Public Service Award in 2007, for being the first person to successfully pass  
7 legislation to prohibit smoking in Louisiana, and for his profound contribution to public  
8 health; and

9 WHEREAS, Senator Marionneaux was re-elected to his third term of office in 2008,  
10 and was appointed as the Chairman of the Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee,  
11 which oversees the state's revenue, tax laws, and capital outlay legislation; was appointed  
12 Senate Parliamentarian; and was appointed to serve on the Senate and governmental affair,;  
13 labor and industrial relations, judiciary A, joint capital outlay and joint budget committees;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, being an advocate for the citizens of Louisiana, Rob has fought for  
16 many different causes, particularly for the working class, sponsoring and passing many  
17 pieces of legislation, including the Louisiana Sales Tax Holiday to save taxpayer dollars, and  
18 fighting hard to lower taxes for working families by repealing parts of the Stelly Plan,  
19 believing that tax cuts are for individuals and not big corporations at the expense of working  
20 citizens, and in 2011, attempting to save the state millions in tax breaks, and attempting to  
21 phase out the state income tax; and

22 WHEREAS, Senator Marionneaux is a fiscally responsible Democrat, whose top  
23 priority is education, fighting to raise the quality of schools and demanding increased  
24 performance in the classroom, voting for the TOPS scholarship program while in office, and  
25 authoring and passing legislation to grant each parent a tax deduction up to fifty percent of  
26 that amount paid for private and parochial school tuition up to five thousand dollars; and

27 WHEREAS, Rob has secured many millions of dollars for the parishes he represents  
28 for improvements, economic development, non-profit organizations, and various entities,  
29 most importantly to enhance the lives of the citizens by making their community a better and  
30 more safe place to live; and

1           WHEREAS, he is blessed with a wonderful family who are his strongest supporters  
2 of his political dreams, Robert and Patsy; sisters Julie and Janet; niece Janie; and nephews  
3 Chuck and Mark, each spending hours stuffing envelopes, making calls, walking  
4 door-to-door, and putting up signs during each campaign, all being very proud of Rob's  
5 accomplishments, and of the fact that he never forgot where he came from, and has fought  
6 hard for the people of his district and state; and

7           WHEREAS, Rob is also blessed with great friends, and a dedicated and committed  
8 staff who have helped him along his legislative career, who are like family to him and will  
9 miss him dearly; Kim Daigle, his legislative assistant of over thirteen years, and his capitol  
10 family, Danielle Doiron, Shannon Simpson, and Camille Morgan, each having praise and  
11 respect for him and the causes he fights for, and learning many lessons from him and sharing  
12 many memorable moments along the way, such as buying and babysitting an iguana,  
13 watching him spring into action and volunteer after Hurricane Katrina, Camille staying up  
14 all night stapling papers "accordion style" so he could show his colleagues the vast amount  
15 of tax credits we allow in this state, Danielle coordinating Military Family Day and listening  
16 to Senator Marionneaux read each resolution honoring our fallen heroes and visiting with  
17 military families and listening to stories about their loved ones, and Shannon always running  
18 around the capitol, making sure to always have a back-up plan; and

19           WHEREAS, no job is as important to him as being the most loving and supportive  
20 father to his son Robert, 13, who looks up to his dad and is very close to him, and has fond  
21 memories of growing up at the capitol, sitting in his dad's desk on the Senate floor watching  
22 him debate issues and pass laws, while also coaching his baseball team and supporting him  
23 at each track meet, baseball, football, and basketball game, and taking him flying in his  
24 plane, and on hunting, fishing, skiing, and beach trips; and

25           WHEREAS, Rob Marionneaux is a partner at the Law Firm of Unglesby and  
26 Marionneaux in Baton Rouge, and specializes in personal injury and criminal defense,  
27 having represented thousands of individuals in their quest for justice; and

28           WHEREAS, his hobbies include fishing, hunting, flying his plane, snow skiing, and  
29 working on his cattle farm in Grosse Tete; and

30           WHEREAS, Rob is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Louisiana

1 Cattleman's Association, Louisiana Farm Bureau, Ducks Unlimited, and the National Wild  
2 Turkey Federation; a board member of the Mental Health Board of Louisiana; and a member  
3 of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Maringouin; and

4 WHEREAS, he has been the deserving recipient of numerous honors and awards  
5 throughout the course of his exemplary career and his professional, civic, and business  
6 affiliations; and

7 WHEREAS, Rob Marionneaux is a public servant whose proven leadership,  
8 dedication, knowledge, and excellence as a state representative and state senator has merited  
9 his consistent re-election to office since 1996; and

10 WHEREAS, he must relinquish his Senate seat when his term of office officially  
11 ends in January 2012, due to term limits, and although this chapter as a state legislator is  
12 coming to an end, he will never stop fighting for the citizens of Louisiana; and

13 WHEREAS, as he prepares to begin the next exciting chapter in his life, Senator  
14 Marionneaux deserves commendation for his singular contributions and the exemplary  
15 strides he has taken as an exceptional member of the Louisiana Senate and the Louisiana  
16 House of Representatives.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Honorable Robert "Rob" M.  
18 Marionneaux Jr. is hereby commended and congratulated, and honor and recognition are  
19 hereby extended to him for his outstanding accomplishments, particularly during his tenure  
20 as a member of the Louisiana Senate and the Louisiana House of Representatives, which has  
21 been marked by his uncompromising endeavors to improve the health and welfare of his  
22 constituents and all citizens of the state of Louisiana, and tribute is hereby paid to him for  
23 the generous and effective way in which he has made a difference, and shared his  
24 intelligence and energy to serve his family, friends, community, and state.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that enduring gratitude is hereby expressed to him  
26 for his exemplary achievements and unforgettable moments as a member of this  
27 distinguished body, and best wishes from all of his colleagues for continued prosperity and  
28 success in his future endeavors are hereby extended.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
30 Senator Rob Marionneaux.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

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DIGEST

Riser

SR No.

Commends the Honorable Robert "Rob" M. Marionneaux Jr. for his outstanding service as a state representative and state senator.