

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 153

BY SENATORS RISER, ADLEY, ALARIO, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, CHABERT, CHAISSON, CHEEK, CLAITOR, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY, ERDEY, GAUTREAUX, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JACKSON, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MCPHERSON, MICHOT, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MOUNT, MURRAY, NEVERS, PERRY, PETERSON, QUINN, SHAW, SMITH, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH AND WILLARD-LEWIS

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, in 1995, he graduated from Southern University Law Center, where he was on the Dean's List, and represented the Law Center in various capacities, including

being elected Vice-President, the first Caucasian student representative at Southern, and participating in trial competition where he and his teammates won Best Brief and Best Oral Argument; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, after serving one term in the House of Representatives, Rob was elected in November 2000 to serve as the State Senator for District 17 in the Louisiana Senate, representing all or parts of East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, and West Baton Rouge parishes, and was appointed to serve on the agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, and rural development, and joint capital outlay committees; and

WHEREAS, Senator Marionneaux was re-elected for a second term in 2004 and was appointed Chairman of the Judiciary B Committee, which oversees the criminal justice system, including juvenile justice, the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, and all gaming issues, and was also appointed to serve on the Senate and

governmental affairs, revenue and fiscal affairs, and consumer affairs and technology committees; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, being equally as passionate about service, the legislature, the military, and moving this state forward, Senator Marionneaux is focused on improving the lives and health of all Louisiana citizens, and authored the Louisiana Smokefree Air Act, which became law on January 1, 2007, and prohibits smoking in public places, including restaurants, schools, school buses, school campuses, public buildings, and places of employment; and

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

health; and

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Rob is also blessed with great friends, and a dedicated and committed

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Rob is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Louisiana Cattleman's Association, Louisiana Farm Bureau, Ducks Unlimited, and the National Wild Turkey Federation; a board member of the Mental Health Board of Louisiana; and a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Maringouin; and

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

WHEREAS, Rob Marionneaux is a public servant whose proven leadership,

dedication, knowledge, and excellence as a state representative and state senator has merited his consistent re-election to office since 1996; and

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

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

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

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE