

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 80

BY SENATORS BOUDREAUX, BARROW, BERNARD, CATHEY, CORTEZ, FIELDS, FOIL, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, MORRIS, PEACOCK, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, TALBOT, TARVER, WARD AND WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

To commend Joseph Seyler on the occasion of his retirement after twenty-five years of public service to the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Joseph Seyler, son of the late Joseph and Eileen Seyler, spent his early childhood in Tappan, New York, before moving to El Paso, Texas, where he graduated from Cathedral High School; and

WHEREAS, after high school, Joseph entered the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), a Catholic order of priests; he was in the novitiate at Grand Coteau, Louisiana, for two years before being sent to undergraduate studies at Loyola University in New Orleans, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in English; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation, Joseph was sent to teach English at Strake Jesuit High School in Houston, and while in Houston, after eight years with the order, he decided to leave the Jesuits, but did not leave teaching; he returned to New Orleans and taught English at De La Salle High School; and

WHEREAS, deciding to continue his education in New York City, Joseph earned his Master of Arts degree in English at Columbia University and his Juris Doctorate from The Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University; and

WHEREAS, returning to Texas, Joseph clerked for Federal Judge Howell Cobb in Beaumont, Texas, and briefly worked at two small law firms before finding his calling at the Louisiana Mental Health Advocacy Service (MHAS), where he found a new way to serve God by serving those most in need - those with mental illnesses, and children in abuse and neglect situations; and

WHEREAS, over the last twenty-five years, Joseph advanced in the agency, moving from staff attorney, to supervising attorney to deputy general counsel, and finally, to director of the agency; and

WHEREAS, although his title and duties might have changed over the years, he never lost his determination to honor the agency goal - ensuring that his clients' voices were heard, and that they received every right and remedy afforded to them under law; and

WHEREAS, Joseph has been a respected colleague, mentor, friend, and leader to those in and around MHAS, and during his tenure as director, Joseph successfully guided MHAS through a state computer hacking threat, an historic flood, two devastating hurricanes, a crippling ice storm, and a world pandemic, while still finding time to become certified as a Child Welfare Law Specialist by the National Association of Counsel for Children; and

WHEREAS, maintaining his close ties to the Church, Joseph served as a member of his local church's parish council, taught confirmation classes, and sang in the church choir, while also making time to volunteer at Catholic Charities in their Community Garden; and

WHEREAS, perhaps most importantly, Joseph has been a great husband and father, and his wife, Jean Dresley and daughter, Nora feel so lucky to have him in their lives.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Joseph Seyler on the occasion of his retirement; does hereby acknowledge his lifelong dedication to public service, to his family, and to his church; and does hereby extend sincere wishes of continued good health and growth for Joseph Seyler as he begins this latest chapter in his life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Joseph Seyler.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE