

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 97

BY SENATORS CORTEZ, ABRAHAM, BARROW, BERNARD, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, DUPLESSIS, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HARRIS, HENRY, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, KLEINPETER, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, MORRIS, PEACOCK, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, STINE, TALBOT, TARVER, WHITE AND WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Honorable R.L. "Bret" Allain II for his years of distinguished public service in the Legislature of Louisiana and to express enduring gratitude for his exemplary contributions made on behalf of his constituents in the parishes of Iberia, Lafourche, St. Mary, and Terrebonne and the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Senator Allain is a native son of the Bayou Region, born and raised along the Bayou Teche in St. Mary Parish; and

WHEREAS, he began working at the young age of thirteen in the sugarcane fields his family has owned for six generations; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from St. Joseph's High School, Senator Allain attended Louisiana State University where he studied agronomy, business, and history and graduated from the agricultural engineering program; and

WHEREAS, he returned to St. Mary Parish to work with his father and uncle, and in 1990 assumed the responsibility of running the family farm; and

WHEREAS, Senator Allain's keen business acumen led him to expand his land companies into the oil and gas industry; and

WHEREAS, Senator Allain currently serves as President of St. Mary Sugar Cooperative, a sugar mill his grandfather helped create, Adeline Planting Company, Allain-LeBreton Land Company, Allain Land Company, and Charenton Crawfish Farms, and he serves on the board of directors of Sugar Growers and Refiners, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Senator Allain's professional, civic, and personal interests find him holding affiliations with the St. Mary Industrial Group, Bayou Industrial Group, South Central Industrial Association, Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce, St. Mary Chamber of Commerce, Houma/Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce, Bayou Bend Health System Board of Commissioners, serving as chairman, American Sugar Cane League Board of Directors,

and the Krewe of Sucrose, serving as King Sucrose LXXX in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Senator Allain is a proud member of the Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana (CCA) and was chosen as a Legislative Champion and inducted into the CCA of Louisiana Hall of Fame in 2023; and

WHEREAS, Senator Allain is guided by his strong faith and is an active member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Jeanerette; and

WHEREAS, Senator Allain began his public service in 1999 when he accepted an appointment by Governor Mike Foster to the Louisiana State Mineral Board followed by appointments to the Louisiana Agriculture Finance Authority, serving as its vice chairman, and the I-49 South Feasibility and Funding Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the voters of Senate District 21 placed their trust in Senator Allain in 2012 and he was reelected without opposition to two successive terms in 2015 and 2019; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, he served with great diligence on the Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs, serving as chairman, Senate Committee on Finance, serving as vice chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development, serving as vice chairman, Senate Select Committee on Coastal Restoration and Flood Control, serving as chairman, Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs, Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs, Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay, Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, and the State Bond Commission; and

WHEREAS, his lifelong experience as a farmer and businessman heavily influenced his tenure in the legislature and his colleagues relied on him as an authority on all agricultural policy issues affecting the state; and

WHEREAS, an avid outdoorsman and fisherman, Senator Allain has been a knowledgeable advocate on policies affecting coastal Louisiana, working tirelessly to secure funding to protect and restore our coastal wetlands, and authoring notable legislation on oilfield site restoration and the management of orphaned oil and gas wells; and

WHEREAS, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs, Senator Allain spearheaded monumental tax reforms vital to growing Louisiana's economy,

including eliminating the federal income tax deduction and using the savings to lower individual and corporate income tax rates, lowering the corporate franchise tax, state and local tax administration reforms, and improving Louisiana's scorecard from national tax policy nonprofit groups such as the Council on State Taxation and the Tax Foundation; and

WHEREAS, he takes particular pride in his work to simplify Louisiana's tax code for citizens and businesses in a revenue neutral manner, providing stability to revenue projections for the state and predictability for companies looking to make investments; and

WHEREAS, Senator Allain is a master of the capital outlay process, implementing important reforms and successfully acquiring funding for critical infrastructure projects that affect his district and the entire state of Louisiana, including lasting improvements to aging water, sewer, and drainage systems, healthcare facilities, colleges and universities, coastal erosion and flood control projects, and transportation and highway projects; and

WHEREAS, Senator Allain intentionally worked to hear all sides of an argument, to treat all stakeholders with respect, to build relationships with his fellow legislators, statewide elected officials, and everyone involved in the legislative process, and to work across party lines to accomplish goals to benefit the people of his district and the state; and

WHEREAS, after his faith, nothing is more important to Senator Allain than the enduring love and support of his precious family, his wife of thirty-nine years, Kimberly McElveen Allain, their three children, Dr. Quin Allain Bixler (Harrison), Emma Allain, and Robert Allain III (Morgan), and five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Senator Allain and Kim are affectionately known as "Granddaddy" and "Sugar" to their precious "Sugar Cubes" – Flora, Marshall, Ann Reuel, Olivia, and Noelle; and

WHEREAS, known by his colleagues and Senate staff for his generous hospitality, he often opened his home for gatherings, and along with Kim, always made sure that visitors were welcomed warmly; and

WHEREAS, guests eagerly anticipate his annual cochon-de-lait in the spring and often inquire about his coveted old-fashioned recipe; and

WHEREAS, Senator Allain has worn the mantle of public service for three productive terms as senator and now looks forward to returning home to his "bride" and their

family; and

WHEREAS, Senator Allain has earned the respect of his peers and the unceasing gratitude of the citizens of the state of Louisiana, in particular, the people of Senate District 21 and the Bayou Region, who have been enriched immeasurably by his good works.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Honorable R.L. "Bret" Allain II, extending honor and recognition to him for his outstanding tenure, which has been marked by his tireless efforts to improve the welfare of his constituents and the citizens of the state of Louisiana, and does hereby pay tribute to him for his stellar achievements as a member of this distinguished body.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend best wishes to our friend and colleague for continued prosperity and success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable R.L. "Bret" Allain II of Louisiana Senatorial District 21.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE