

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 157

BY SENATORS ALARIO, ADLEY, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Honorable Edwin R. Murray for twenty-four years of invaluable public service in the Legislature of Louisiana provided to the citizenry of this state, in particular, the constituency of Senate District No. 4 and the city of New Orleans.

WHEREAS, born in 1960, Edwin Rene Murray is a lifelong resident and favorite son of New Orleans; he was a quick study at John Kennedy High School and matriculated to Loyola University to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a juris doctor degree from Loyola University School of Law; and

WHEREAS, while attending Loyola, he garnered numerous academic honors including Loyola Law Clinic, Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities, the Student Bar Association, the Black Law Student Association, appointment to Moot Court, and he pledged Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity; and

WHEREAS, after the formation of the successful law partnership of Murray, Darnell and Associates, Edwin Murray decided to enter the field of politics; and

WHEREAS, from 1992 until 2004, Ed Murray represented District No. 96 in the Louisiana House of Representatives and was assigned to the House standing committees on Appropriations, House and Governmental Affairs, and Labor and Industrial Relations; the House Executive Committee; the statutory entities of the Legislative Audit Advisory Council as chairman, Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, and the State Bond Commission; and

WHEREAS, his professional affiliations include the organizations of the National Conference of State Legislators, National Black Conference of State Legislators, National Conference of Insurance Legislators, American Bar Association, Louisiana State Bar Association, Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, National Bar Association, and Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association; and

WHEREAS, Senator Murray took his oath of office to represent Senate District No. 4 in Orleans Parish in January 2005, serving his first session in the Senate that spring; in August of that year, Hurricane Katrina struck South Louisiana and all the rules changed; Orleans Parish and the entire region were brought to the brink of disaster; it was a defining moment in his life; and in the aftermath of the storm, life, liberty, and property became a high-stakes gamble in the survival of the city; and

WHEREAS, although much of the French Quarter was spared from high water, large portions of the district were flooded and the inner workings of local government were at a standstill; those were dark days, and enduring the catastrophe became an hour-by-hour proposition, but "the city that care forgot" pulled itself out of the mire and the darkness of the disaster through a long recovery process and, today, the city and its people still bear both visible and invisible scars; and

WHEREAS, through a series of special sessions at the capitol, Senator Murray penned legislation to reinforce the property rights of homeowners and make certain that due process and ownership were preserved; he was often at odds with developers and city hall officials in the haste to repair homes and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, his legislative expertise garnered assignments to the Senate standing committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs, Judiciary A, Finance, Labor & Industrial Relations as vice-chairman, Senate and Governmental Affairs, Insurance, and Local and Municipal Affairs; and select committees on Homeland Security, Hurricane Recovery, Oversight of the Gulf Coast Claims Facility as chairman, Veterans Affairs, Vocational and Technical Education, and Women and Children; and he was once again assigned to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and Legislative Audit Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, Senator Murray applied his leadership skills to advance legislation for

the Legislative Black Caucus and the New Orleans Caucus; he acted as Senate Floor Leader for the City of New Orleans and authored legislation for local initiatives including the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, the Orleans Parish School Board, recovery districts, and the conservation of civil due process and property rights for those owners displaced by Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, while in the legislature, Senator Murray authored other legislation that included equal pay for women, workers' compensation, transportation infrastructure, health care, education, workforce training, economic development, anti-discrimination, tourism development, and campaign finance; and

WHEREAS, Senator Murray advanced legislation for the establishment of special districts such as Lakeview Crime Prevention District and the French Quarter Historic Area Management District, tourism funding to attract major sporting events to the state, the underwriting of insurance premiums for hurricane victims, and the reapportionment and redistricting of New Orleans due to major population shifts; and

WHEREAS, in the realities of life in post-Katrina South Louisiana, Senator Murray has a vision of a vibrant New Orleans; during this recovery period, he has used his talents of persuasion and his willingness to make a difference in the political process to bolster the rebuilding of both the parish and the city, strengthen the French Quarter as a national historic landmark and a vital component of Louisiana's tourism industry, support Louisiana's cultural heritage and unique history, and revel in the continued grand renaissance of "The City", known to the outside world as the most European city in the Americas, New Orleans, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Senator Murray has earned numerous honors and accolades for his myriad of accomplishments in public life and in his community; however, his greatest accomplishments have been championing legislation and, ultimately, witnessing the fruits of his labor that have made a positive impact in the lives of so many citizens of this state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Honorable Edwin R. Murray for twenty-four years of leadership and exemplary public service in the Legislature of Louisiana that he has provided to the citizenry of this state, in particular, the constituency of Senate District No. 4 and House

District No. 96, and the city of New Orleans, and does hereby note his proud legacy of good works.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its hardy congratulations from his friends and colleagues for a job well done and convey its best wishes for all his future aspirations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Senator Edwin R. Murray of Senatorial District 4.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE