

2015 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 157

BY SENATOR ALARIO

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Senator Edwin R. Murray on 24 years of distinguished public service in the Legislature of Louisiana.

1 A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

13 WHEREAS, after the formation of the successful law partnership of Murray, Darnell  
14 and Associates, Edwin Murray considered entering the field of politics; and

15 WHEREAS, from 1991 until 2004, Ed Murray was elected to represent District No.  
16 96 in the Louisiana House of Representatives and was assigned to the House standing  
17 committees on Appropriations, House and Governmental Affairs, and Labor and Industrial  
18 Relations; the House Executive Committee; the statutory entities of the Legislative Audit

1 Advisory Council as chairman, Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, and the State  
2 Bond Commission; and

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

8 WHEREAS, Senator Murray took his oath of office to represent Senate District No.  
9 4 in Orleans Parish in January 2005, serving his first session in the Senate that spring; in  
10 August of that year, Hurricane Katrina struck South Louisiana and all the rules changed;  
11 Orleans Parish and the entire region were brought to the brink of disaster; it was a defining  
12 moment in his life; and in the aftermath of the storm, life, liberty, and property became a  
13 high-stakes gamble in the survival of the city; and

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

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

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

1 Advisory Council; and

2 WHEREAS, Senator Murray applied his leadership skills to advance legislation for  
3 the Legislative Black Caucus and the New Orleans Caucus; he acted as Senate Floor Leader  
4 for the City of New Orleans and authored legislation for local initiatives including the  
5 Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, the Orleans Parish School Board, recovery  
6 districts, and the conservation of civil due process and property rights for those owners  
7 displaced by Hurricane Katrina; and

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

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

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

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

29 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
30 does hereby commend the Honorable Edwin R. Murray for twenty-four years of leadership

1 and exemplary public service in the Legislature of Louisiana that he has provided to the  
2 citizenry of this state, in particular, the constituency of Senate District No. 4 and House  
3 District No. 96, and the city of New Orleans, and note this proud legacy of good works.

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

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

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Suzi Montague.

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DIGEST

SR 157 Original                      2015 Regular Session                      Alario

Commends Senator Edwin R. Murray for his many years of public service in the Louisiana  
Legislature.