

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 14

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

A RESOLUTION

To commend Walter "Walt" Leger III for his dedicated service to the citizens of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Walter "Walt" Leger III was a notable public servant who served with excellence as a state representative from 2008-2020, during which time he fully used every opportunity to serve the citizens of District No. 91 and the state in an honorable and dedicated manner; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Jesuit High School, he received a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Louisiana State University and a juris doctor degree from Tulane University; and

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2012, Mr. Leger was elected as the twelfth speaker pro tempore of the House of Representatives, making history as only the third member to hold this position for two consecutive terms and becoming the youngest member to serve in that capacity; and

WHEREAS, he was a proud member of the Democratic Caucus and Orleans Delegation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Leger's diligent committee service included serving as a member of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, the House Committee on Appropriations, the House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, the House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Infrastructure

and Resources, the House Committee on Education, the House Committee on Judiciary, the House Executive Committee, the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, the Legislative Budgetary Control Council, and the State Bond Commission; and

WHEREAS, for nearly a decade, he worked to reform the criminal justice system in Louisiana to ensure that every public tax dollar was spent efficiently and productively; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Leger created the Criminals Justice Reinvestment Taskforce, in conjunction with the Pew Center for States, to save the state of Louisiana more than three hundred million dollars over ten years by reducing the prison population, reinvesting more than half of those savings in anti-recidivism programming, and lowering the crime rate; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Leger received numerous accolades and awards in recognition of his public service, including the Tax Foundation Award for Excellence in State Tax Reform, the Chamber of Southwest Louisiana Business Champion Award, named Outstanding Legislator by the LSU Health Sciences Center Foundation, Legislative Champion by the Louisiana Industrial Development Executives Association, Whole Child Champion by the Early Childhood & Family Learning Foundation, the Childcare Association of Louisiana Champion for Children, and Legislator of the Year by the Childcare Association of Louisiana, and was recognized by numerous organizations for his dedicated service to the citizens of Louisiana during his tenure in the legislature; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Leger was appointed chairman of the Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority in April by Governor John Bel Edwards to fill a vacancy in that position; and

WHEREAS, as chairman, he played a key role in Fair Share negotiations and as the state operated a medical unit at the convention center for coronavirus patients; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of its communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend in great measure upon people like Walter "Walt" Leger III; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his many achievements as a public servant, Walter "Walt" Leger III is a deeply beloved member of the New Orleans community who has earned the respect and admiration of the countless citizens whose lives he has touched.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Walter "Walt" Leger III for his dedicated service to the citizens of New Orleans, does hereby recognize and record for posterity his vital contributions and tireless dedication to the state of Louisiana, and does hereby extend to him best wishes for continued success and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Walter "Walt" Leger III.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE