

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6

BY SENATORS ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, BROWN, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE AND REPRESENTATIVES ABRAHAM, ABRAMSON, ADAMS, AMEDEE, ANDERS, ARMES, BACALA, BAGLEY, BAGNERIS, BARRAS, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, BISHOP, BOUIE, BROADWATER, CHAD BROWN, TERRY BROWN, CARMODY, CARPENTER, GARY CARTER, ROBBY CARTER, STEVE CARTER, CHANEY, CONNICK, COUSSAN, COX, CROMER, DANAHAY, DAVIS, DEVILLIER, DWIGHT, EDMONDS, EMERSON, FALCONER, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, GLOVER, GUINN, HALL, JIMMY HARRIS, LANCE HARRIS, HAVARD, HAZEL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILFERTY, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HORTON, HOWARD, HUNTER, HUVAL, IVEY, JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, MIKE JOHNSON, ROBERT JOHNSON, JONES, JORDAN, NANCY LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LOPINTO, LYONS, MACK, MAGEE, MARCELLE, MCFARLAND, MIGUEZ, DUSTIN MILLER, GREGORY MILLER, MONTOUCET, MORENO, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, NORTON, PEARSON, PIERRE, POPE, PRICE, PUGH, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHRODER, SEABAUGH, SHADOIN, SIMON, SMITH, STOKES, TALBOT, THIBAUT, WHITE, WILLMOTT AND ZERINGUE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Joseph A. "Joe" Donchess, Executive Director of the Louisiana Nursing Home Association, for his dedicated service rendered on behalf of the health services community as a distinguished lobbyist and to congratulate him upon the occasion of his well-deserved retirement.

WHEREAS, it is with great respect that the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes the accomplishments forged by Joe Donchess, who has consistently promoted the improvement of relations between nursing home providers and governmental agencies; and

WHEREAS, during his thirty years with the Louisiana Nursing Home Association, Joe Donchess has been recognized by his peers as an astute professional; he has provided leadership in the formulation of long-term care policy and advocacy on behalf of Louisiana's nursing home facilities, assisted living communities, and the residents who are served; and

WHEREAS, born in Struthers, Ohio, Joe graduated from Struthers High School in 1968 as a stellar basketball athlete; he attained a bachelor of arts degree from Chaminade University in Hawaii where he also played basketball for the Chaminade "Silerswords"; Joe continued his education and attained a Juris Doctor from Southern University Law Center;

and

WHEREAS, his work with state government began in 1979 as an attorney for the state agency now known as the Louisiana Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, he was named Executive Director of the Louisiana Nursing Home Association and his leadership and expertise were applied to identify the domains of practice, performance, and skills used by providers responsible for long-term care supports and services; and

WHEREAS, his professional affiliations include the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Baton Rouge Bar Association, the American Health Lawyers Association, the American Society of Health Care Association Executives, and the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association; and

WHEREAS, Joe Donchess has received many accolades during his prestigious career, too numerous to mention; however, he is especially proud of receiving the Better Life Award in 1994 and again in 2008; and

WHEREAS, many public and nonprofit agencies have benefitted from his guidance, which includes his membership and executive positions held with the Board of Examiners of Nursing Facility Administrators, the Louisiana Medical Assistance Trust Fund Advisory Council, the Louisiana Patients' Compensation Fund Oversight Board, the Louisiana Executive Board on Aging, the National Hurricane Summit, the Louisiana Health Works Commission, and the Gubernatorial Health Care Transition Team; and

WHEREAS, Joe Donchess was instrumental in the passage of several items of legislation that include implementation of the Nursing Home Reform Act, the creation of the Case Mix Reimbursement System and the Intergovernmental Transfer Program, and protections for the Medical Assistance Trust Fund; and Joe's work on these programs assisted the state in the generation of over \$1.5 billion and the receipt of over \$4.8 billion in matching federal funds without any cost to the state; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Joe assembled a team of heroic responders that executed rescue operations in numerous nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and independent living facilities; later the team assisted in the successful pre-storm evacuation of ninety-three nursing facilities before the landfall of Hurricane Gustav; and

WHEREAS, after hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, Joe was appointed to the Louisiana Health Care Collaborative, a commission created to redesign health care delivery, to revamp health policy, and to rebuild the health care facilities in those areas affected by storm damage; and

WHEREAS, in his leisure time, Joe takes a special interest in sports; he is a member of the Baton Rouge Ancient Athlete Society and as a member of the National Senior Olympic Basketball Team; he was a gold medalist in the 2013 National Senior Olympic Games in Cleveland, Ohio, and was awarded a bronze medal in 2007; and

WHEREAS, in retirement, Joe and his wife, Deborah White Donchess, look forward to more time spent with their two sons, Robert and Sam, and three grandchildren, and the pursuit of new golf adventures; and

WHEREAS, an effective and successful legislative process depends, essentially, upon leaders like Joe Donchess, a consummate professional, who leads by example and whose unique talents and abilities assist in the law-making process.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Joseph A. "Joe" Donchess, Executive Director of the Louisiana Nursing Home Association, on his thirty-year career in governmental relations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby congratulate Joe Donchess on the occasion of his well-deserved retirement and wish for him success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Joseph A. "Joe" Donchess.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES