

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 164

BY SENATOR GATTI

A RESOLUTION

To commend Robert "Bobby" E. Marlow on the occasion of his retirement as an educator after nearly fifty years in the profession.

WHEREAS, Mr. Bobby Marlow, a native of Natchez, Mississippi, was born to James Anthony Marlow Sr. and Thelma Ford Marlow on December 29, 1945, the youngest of five children, and he was educated in the public schools in his home state, graduating from Adams County High School in 1964; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Marlow considers the greatest influence in his life, other than his parents, his junior high school teacher and coach, Robert M. Dearing, who was a role model and an inspiration for Mr. Marlow to become an educator; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, Mr. Marlow accepted a football scholarship to play football at Copiah-Lincoln Junior College, now known as Copiah-Lincoln Community College, in Wesson, Mississippi, and in 1966 he enrolled at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi from which he graduated in 1968 with a bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Marlow made the move from his native Mississippi to Louisiana in 1968 when he accepted his first teaching position at Morgan City High School in Morgan City, Louisiana, where he taught until 1971; and

WHEREAS, in August 1971, Mr. Marlow accepted a teaching and coaching position at Parkway High School in Bossier City, Louisiana, making a permanent move to North Louisiana and remaining at Parkway through 1986; and

WHEREAS, while teaching through the school year, Bobby Marlow also attended classes at Louisiana State University in Shreveport, where he received a master's degree in education in 1980; and

WHEREAS, at the beginning of the 1986-1987 academic year, Mr. Marlow moved to Elm Grove Middle School, in Elm Grove, Louisiana, as assistant principal under the tutelage of principal Ken Kruithof, serving in that capacity until 1991; and

WHEREAS, becoming principal after having served as assistant principal of the Elm Grove Middle School since 1986, was the next logical step in his career and Mr. Marlow accepted the principalship in 1991, serving until 2010; and

WHEREAS, Elm Grove Elementary was established in 2010, taking the primary grades to a separate campus and Bobby Marlow made the final move of his academic career to become the principal of the new elementary school, serving until his retirement at the conclusion of the 2016-2017 school year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Marlow married Alice Ferguson Marlow and the two are the parents of a lovely daughter, Lori Harper, and they enjoy interacting with their grandchildren Jill, Rob, and Ali; and

WHEREAS, because of his long and successful tenure at Elm Grove Elementary, Bobby Marlow was principal when all of his grandchildren attended the school, a particularly special circumstance; and

WHEREAS, the Marlows have led a busy life in the community while Mr. Marlow has been involved in his academic career, particularly being active members of Bellaire Baptist Church with Mr. Marlow serving as deacon from 1985 until the present and as a Sunday school teacher; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Marlow maintains membership in the Louisiana Association of School Executives, the Bossier Association of Principals, and is a lifetime member of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association; and

WHEREAS, on the last day of the 2016-2017 school year, students, faculty, and staff of Elm Grove Elementary school said goodbye to their beloved principal amid hugs, cheers, and not a few tears; and

WHEREAS, commenting on his time in Bossier schools, Bobby Marlow stated, "Bossier Parish is just a wonderful place to be, its been a family-like atmosphere...and its been a great run"; and

WHEREAS, all those at Elm Grove Elementary agreed with this assessment and sent their longtime principal off with best wishes for a retirement filled with love and much time with his family; and

WHEREAS, after decades of working hard as a dedicated teacher, coach, and school

administrator and giving back to his community through his commitment to his church and numerous professional organizations, in addition to his family responsibilities, Bobby Marlow has earned a long and enjoyable retirement filled with family and friends.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Robert "Bobby" E. Marlow on the occasion of his retirement as an educator after nearly fifty years in the profession.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mr. Bobby Marlow.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE