

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARRAS

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To commend Alfred W. "Butch" Speer on the momentous occasion of his retirement after

3 thirty-five years of service as Clerk of the Louisiana House of Representatives.

4 WHEREAS, thirty-five years ago, when the House of Representatives convened for

5 the 1984 legislative session, the members of that body elected a thirty-one-year-old attorney

6 as Clerk of the House, Alfred William Speer, II; and

7 WHEREAS, at the time of this election, Mr. Speer was no stranger to the Louisiana

8 Legislature; he had served as assistant head page while a student at the Louisiana State

9 University Paul M. Hebert Law Center, thereafter serving as head page of the Constitutional

10 Convention of 1973, a Louisiana Legislative Council law clerk, an assistant to the House

11 front desk, assistant clerk to David R. Poynter, and acting clerk from April 25, 1983, to

12 March 12, 1984; and

13 WHEREAS, over the years, his knowledge of the rules and procedures of the House

14 of Representatives and his impartial and enthusiastic advice and counsel demonstrated his

15 unwavering dedication to the legislative branch of state government; he was elected a total

16 of seven times to a staff position of utmost importance to the legislative process; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Speer has been repeatedly recognized by his peers and has served

18 in a number of leadership roles; in 2011, he was elected to chair the Mason's Manual

19 Commission, which is charged with editing the 2020 edition of the handbook that is used by

20 most state legislatures as the basis of their procedures; he has served as the National

21 Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) staff chair, president of the American Society of

1 Legislative Clerks and Secretaries (ASLCS), and chair and vice chair of numerous NCSL
2 committees, including staff chair of the NCSL Redistricting and Elections Committee; and

3 WHEREAS, in 2002, ASLCS awarded Butch the Joseph A. Beek Award, the
4 society's highest award, presented for exemplary and extraordinary service to the society,
5 and in 2009, he received the society's annual Legislative Staff Achievement Award in
6 recognition of his excellence in supporting the work of the legislature and strengthening the
7 legislative institution; and

8 WHEREAS, since 1976, Butch has served under ten Speakers of the House and has
9 earned the highest respect of the members of both houses of the legislature, impressed his
10 colleagues as a model and ideal parliamentarian, and conducted himself as a true gentleman
11 with decency and patience; and

12 WHEREAS, Butch has been at the forefront of numerous improvements in
13 Louisiana's legislative procedures that have facilitated citizen awareness of and involvement
14 in the business of state government; and

15 WHEREAS, Butch is supported by his loving wife, Carol, is the proud father of
16 Morgan and Kent, and is the grandfather of Davis; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Speer will be greatly missed by the members and staff of the
18 Louisiana Legislature who have come to respect and admire him and value his advice and
19 friendship; and

20 WHEREAS, if democracy is going to work, someone must do the work of
21 democracy, and for his entire professional career Butch Speer has been one of those
22 someones, standing strong and fighting the great fight for the principles of representative
23 democracy in the face of pressures that tend to subvert those principles; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Speer is an inspiration to anyone committed to public service, and
25 he merits the highest commendation for his contributions to the state, whose citizens will
26 long reap the benefits of his legacy of excellence and professionalism.

27 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
28 commend Alfred W. "Butch" Speer on his retirement after thirty-five years of service as
29 Clerk of the Louisiana House of Representatives; does hereby record and recognize his
30 manifold contributions to the Legislature of Louisiana and the people of this state; and does

1 hereby extend the tribute and appreciation of the members of the legislature to this
2 extraordinary gentleman for his achievements.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
4 Alfred W. "Butch" Speer.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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2019 Regular Session

Barras

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