

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 148

BY SENATORS ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PETERSON, PRICE, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To recognize and highly commend John L. "Jack" Donahue Jr. for twelve years of dedicated, distinguished, and tireless service to the Senate of Louisiana, the people of the parishes of St. Tammany and Tangipahoa (District 11), and the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Jack Donahue received a degree in civil engineering from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge in 1967; and

WHEREAS, Jack Donahue began his professional career in 1971 when he started Spartan Building Corporation and took a significant step forward in 1979 with the creation of the highly successful, well-respected, award-winning DonahueFavret Contractors, which recently celebrated its fortieth anniversary, and of which he currently serves as chairman of the board; and

WHEREAS, Jack Donahue has deep ties with the business community through memberships, past and present, in the Associated Builders and Contractors, the St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce, the Northshore Area Committee Business Congress for Louisiana, GNO, Inc., and the Louisiana Association of Building and Industry; and

WHEREAS, understanding that you have to be involved in order to change the status quo, Jack Donahue was motivated to run for state office by a desire to make government more efficient, make sense for business, and to improve the lives of the people of his district and the state; and

WHEREAS, Jack Donahue was first elected to the Senate in 2007, winning by a vote of almost two-to-one; easily won reelection in 2011, earning more than eighty percent of the vote; and was elected without opposition in 2015, proving he had fully earned the trust of

the people he serves; and

WHEREAS, a common thread running through his legislative tenure is the firm belief that how well state finances are managed and monitored today determines the kind of state we will have in the future and establishes the legacy we leave for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the critical need to reduce the cost and size of state government and ensure that tax dollars are spent efficiently and effectively, Senator Donahue introduced and passed numerous pieces of legislation to improve and strengthen the state's budgetary and expenditure practices, including establishment of an incentive expenditure forecast by the Revenue Estimating Conference, a requirement that a nondiscretionary adjusted standstill budget be developed each year in addition to the continuation budget, a requirement that the legislative auditor perform regular performance audits for statutory dedications that include a fee for service, and the creation of the landmark Commission on Streamlining Government; and

WHEREAS, Jack Donahue's business acumen, coupled with his frustration with the myriad of arcane and often conflicting state regulations impacting the business sector and the state's byzantine tax structure, led him to champion legislation to provide a fair regulatory and tax structure for the state's business community and to request a study of the feasibility of establishing a statewide business court to lower costs, enhance efficiency, and promote predictable outcomes for business and industry; and

WHEREAS, understanding the vital role that education plays in a healthy economy, Senator Donahue sponsored legislation to bolster our K-12 education system, strengthen the state's postsecondary education institutions, and stabilize TOPS, the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, so it would be viable for years to come; and

WHEREAS, Jack Donahue recognizes the responsibility that citizens and government share to care for those among us with great need and continually supported legislation to provide increased access, services, and protections to the developmentally disabled and, especially, children with special needs; and

WHEREAS, his bedrock principles of honesty and integrity, and his ability to balance fairness, practicality, and compassion enabled Senator Jack Donahue to earn the

respect and trust of his colleagues and his constituents and thus become a proven and effective legislator; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in the Senate, Jack Donahue served with commitment and distinction on many committees including the Senate Committee on Finance, serving as chairman from 2012-2016, the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, serving as chairman in 2012 and 2013, the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay, the Legislative Budgetary Control Council, the Senate Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Judiciary A, the Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs, the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs, and the Senate Select Committee on Vocational-Technical Education, serving as chairman from 2016-2020; and

WHEREAS, Senator Donahue balances his professional life with a distinguished record of community involvement and philanthropic endeavors including the American Heart Association, Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, the Center for Development and Learning, and other worthy organizations; and

WHEREAS, Senator Jack Donahue, an active member of Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church, is guided by his strong faith, and he is ever mindful of the admonishment in Luke 12:48, "to whom much is given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded"; and

WHEREAS, after his faith, nothing is more important to Jack Donahue than the enduring love and unending support of his precious family - his wife, Maura, and their six children and their spouses, nineteen grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, without whom life has no meaning; and

WHEREAS, committed to the principle of a three-term limit for legislators, Jack Donahue looks forward to returning home to spend quality time with his "bride", Maura, and their family, and embrace whatever life may hold in store.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize and highly commend John L. "Jack" Donahue Jr. for twelve years of dedicated, distinguished, and tireless service to the Senate of Louisiana, the people of the parishes of St. Tammany and Tangipahoa (District 11), and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable John L. "Jack" Donahue Jr., State Senator, District 11.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE