

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 248

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

A RESOLUTION

To commend Thomas F. Wade for his loyal dedication to the legislative and judicial matters of the state of Louisiana resulting from his forty-five years of exemplary public service and to congratulate him upon the occasion of his well-deserved retirement.

WHEREAS, it is with deep appreciation that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes the innumerable contributions made by Tom Wade as a consummate legal professional; and

WHEREAS, presently, Tom serves as Senate Counsel and as Director of the Legal Affairs Division which encompasses Senate Committees on Judiciary A, Judiciary B, and Judiciary C; and

WHEREAS, Tom served as senior staff attorney for the Senate Committees on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, Health and Welfare, Senate and Governmental, Labor and Industrial Relations, Judiciary C, and Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, Tom has served as assistant attorney general in the Louisiana Department of Justice under the administrations of two attorneys general, William J. "Billy" Guste Jr. and Richard P. Ieyoub Sr.; and

WHEREAS, while in the office of attorney general, his responsibilities included the divisions of civil law and litigation (as deputy director) with emphasis on construction litigation (as section chief), tort liability, risk management, and public service ad valorem taxation; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Fluitt Wade was born November 9, 1948, to parents, the Reverend Thomas Magruder Wade III and Alma Fluitt Wade; and

WHEREAS, perhaps Tom was destined to become an attorney and work for the

legislature; his father and grandfather were attorneys and his great-grandfather was elected as a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives; and as a teenager, Tom served as a page in the House; and

WHEREAS, his father was both an attorney and an Episcopal priest, while his mother was dad's talented helpmate who sang in the choir, played the church organ, and responded with grace and enthusiasm to the many duties and demands of a priest's wife; Tom and his sister, Roberta, grew up as "preacher's kids", so they were always on their best behavior; and

WHEREAS, Tom received a bachelor of arts degree in pre-law with a minor in history from Louisiana State University, and he then attended Paul M. Hebert Law Center; however, his pursuit of a law degree was interrupted by his military service in the Louisiana Army National Guard at Fort Polk; he later returned to earn a juris doctor degree in 1974; and

WHEREAS, upon recommendation of Professor George Pugh at LSU Law School, Tom secured a position as law clerk at the Louisiana Court of Appeal, Third Circuit in Lake Charles to assist Chief Judge J. Cleveland Fruge and Judge Cecil C. Cutrer; and

WHEREAS, Tom then served as an assistant district attorney for the Sixth Judicial District Court, Tensas Parish; and

WHEREAS, he gained extensive trial experience in state district court, United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Louisiana; and appellate experience before the Louisiana Courts of Appeal in the First, Second, and Third circuits, the Louisiana Supreme Court, and the United States Court of Appeal in the Fifth Circuit; and

WHEREAS, his professional affiliations include the Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association, the Louisiana State Bar Association, and the American Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, Tom met Marsha Mason while both were staff attorneys at the Louisiana State Senate; it was nearly "love at first sight"; he remains taken by her beauty and intelligence; they have been married for thirty-four years and are blessed with three lovely daughters, Katherine, Leslie, and Heather; and one granddaughter, Sydney; and Tom still considers himself to be the luckiest man in the world; and

WHEREAS, they are faithful members of St. James Episcopal Church; Tom currently serves on the Committee on Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana and has served in numerous elected and volunteer roles at St. James Church and at the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Tom and Marsha celebrate the lighter side of life as Mardi Gras revelers and members of the Spanish Town Royal Mystic Krewe of Generic Yo-Yos; and

WHEREAS, Tom shall be sorely missed by his co-workers for his in-depth discussions on almost any subject, his easy-going demeanor, and for his sincere kindness, enigmatic smile, and genuine friendship; and

WHEREAS, Tom Wade embodies all of the finest characteristics of a public servant; his professional expertise, impartiality, and tireless work ethic have proved essential to the smooth internal operations of the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, his breadth of institutional knowledge of civil and criminal law, his scrutiny of the latest judicial rulings and how those results may affect local, state, and federal governments, and his willingness to assist and mentor those who are new to the committee process reflect elements of his character that are admired by both legislators and staff members alike; and

WHEREAS, in retirement, Tom and Marsha plan to continue their travels to the British Isles, particularly Scotland and Ireland, throughout Europe, and to many other foreign locales; and

WHEREAS, a voracious reader, Tom shall wile away numerous afternoons with a good book or two; and

WHEREAS, in the days that follow, Tom Wade shall fondly recall memories and significant events from the past, the rarefied environment that is state government, and the colorful cast of characters that have graced the halls of the Legislature of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the distinguished career in public service of Thomas F. Wade.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the myriad of contributions he has made on behalf of this august body and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend best wishes to Tom Wade on all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Thomas F. Wade.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE