SLS 23RS-18

ORIGINAL

2023 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 121

BY SENATOR CORTEZ

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Senator Gary L. Smith Jr. for his years of distinguished public service.

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To commend the Honorable Gary L. Smith Jr. on his twenty-four years of distinguished
3	public service in the Legislature of Louisiana and to express enduring gratitude for
4	his outstanding contributions made on behalf of his constituents of Jefferson,
5	Lafourche, St. Charles, and St. John the Baptist parishes, and the state of Louisiana,
6	particularly during his tenure as a regarded member of the Louisiana Senate
7	representing District No. 19 and the Louisiana House of Representatives representing
8	District No. 56.
9	WHEREAS, Senator Smith is the epitome of a public servant and has served with
10	distinction during his six terms in the legislature since taking office in 2000; and
11	WHEREAS, Senator Smith is a lifelong resident of the River Parish Region and
12	earned a bachelor of science degree from Louisiana State University, a juris doctor degree
13	from Loyola Law School, and a master of maritime law degree from Tulane Law School;
14	and
15	WHEREAS, Senator Smith did not go into politics with an agenda, but instead with
16	the goal of making Louisiana a better place to live and work, a mentality ingrained in him
17	by his mentor and grandfather Henry A. Smith, who served as treasurer of the State
18	Democratic Party for over twenty years; and

- 1 WHEREAS, his grandfather impressed upon him that loyalty and trustworthiness are 2 of the utmost importance and that "No matter how thin you slice the cheese, there are always 3 two sides"; and 4 WHEREAS, his grandfather encouraged him to enter into politics in 1989, and he 5 was selected by Congressman Billy Tauzin to serve as a capitol page during the 101st 6 Congress and later served as an intern for Senator John Breaux; and 7 WHEREAS, a few months after law school graduation, he answered his call to public 8 service by entering a crowded field for the House District 56 seat, winning a plurality in the 9 primary and being elected in the run-off with an impressive fifty-six percent of the vote; and 10 WHEREAS, he was sworn in as a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives 11 at the young age of twenty-seven in 2000; and 12 WHEREAS, during his service in the House of Representatives, then-Representative 13 Smith's committee service included serving as a member of the House Committee on 14 Administration of Criminal Justice, the House Committee on Appropriations, the House 15 Committee on Insurance, and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, and as 16 vice-chairman of the House Committee on Commerce and chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Economic Development; and 17 18 WHEREAS, during his tenure in the Senate, Senator Smith has served with great 19 diligence, dedication, and empathy as chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary B for 20 two terms, in addition to serving as a member of the Senate Committee on Insurance, the 21 Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs, the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, the Senate Executive Committee, and the Joint Legislative 22 23 Committee on Capital Outlay; and 24 WHEREAS, he has served as a member of the Acadiana Delegation, the Democratic
- Caucus, the Jefferson Parish Delegation, the River Parishes Caucus, the Louisiana Rural
 Caucus, the Louisiana Rural Caucus Executive Committee, and as co-chairman of the
 Louisiana Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus for the last four years; and
- WHEREAS, Senator Smith is well-known in the legislature for his cool and collected
 demeanor and his trademark wit and dry sense of humor have diffused many contentious
 debates; and

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1	WHEREAS, his measured and deliberate approach to each issue has earned the deep
2	respect of his colleagues and enabled him to work across party lines to benefit the people of
3	his district and the state; and
4	WHEREAS, as a committee chairman, his composed leadership style and command
5	of the legislative process are evidenced by his level-headed thinking, keen understanding of
6	the importance of timing, and ability to see the big picture; and
7	WHEREAS, he takes particular pride in his ability to utilize his practical, legal, and
8	business expertise throughout the committee process; and
9	WHEREAS, Senator Smith developed a passion for business-related issues,
10	correctional reform, improving transportation infrastructure, and flood protection during his
11	time in the legislature; and
12	WHEREAS, he was instrumental in securing funding necessary for essential
13	infrastructure projects that affect the people of Senate District No. 19 and House District No.
14	56, including water, sewerage, drainage, energy, healthcare, and road projects; and
15	WHEREAS, Senator Smith balances his professional life with a commendable record
16	of community involvement and philanthropic endeavors, including serving on the Board of
17	Governors for the Ochsner Medical Center-Kenner and donating his time for Thanksgiving
18	food basket giveaways and Christmas toy drives; and
19	WHEREAS, he has been the deserving recipient of numerous honors and awards
20	throughout the course of his tenure including the Coastal Conservation Association
21	Louisiana Conservation Champion Award, the Fifth Circuit Judges Association Legislator
22	of the Year Award, the Who's Who in American Politics Award, and the Louisiana
23	Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association's Gold Standard Recipient Award; and
24	WHEREAS, Senator Smith is guided by his faith and is an active member of First
25	Baptist Church of Norco, where he serves as an elder; and
26	WHEREAS, he credits his time at the legislature with meeting the love of his life,
27	Katherine Mosely Smith; and
28	WHEREAS, with much in common, including a love for politics, they began a
29	relationship in 2007, were engaged in 2008 on the observation deck of the Louisiana State
30	Capitol, and were married in March 2009; and

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1	WHEREAS, the couple are the proud parents of their son Henry Wilson Smith,
2	named after Senator Smith's grandfather; and daughter Anna-Pierce Katherine Smith, named
3	after Katherine's great-grandfather, Governor Huey Pierce Long; and
4	WHEREAS, Senator Smith has consistently fought for couples struggling with
5	infertility after he and Katherine's personal journey and became well-known as a fierce
6	advocate for making gestational carrier contracts enforceable in Louisiana; and
7	WHEREAS, Senator Smith leaves the legislature having made his mark, known as
8	a consummate statesman, who treated others with respect and handled himself with dignity
9	and class while negotiating tough compromises; and
10	WHEREAS, Senator Smith is grateful for the support of his beloved family, close
11	friends, and cherished colleagues and as he prepares to begin the next exciting and
12	productive chapter of his life, he merits a sincere measure of commendation for twenty-four
13	years of distinguished public service in the Legislature of Louisiana.
14	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
15	hereby commends the Honorable Gary L. Smith Jr. and hereby extends honor and
16	recognition to him for his outstanding contributions, particularly during his tenure as a
17	member of the Louisiana Senate, which has been marked by his allegiance to his constituents
18	in Jefferson, Lafourche, St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes.
19	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
20	hereby expresses enduring gratitude to Senator Smith for his service to the citizens of
21	Louisiana and extends to him the best wishes from all of his colleagues for continued
22	prosperity and success in his future endeavors.
23	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

24 Honorable Gary L. Smith Jr.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alan Miller.

SR 121 Original

DIGEST 2023 Regular Session

Cortez

Commends the Honorable Gary L. Smith Jr. on his 24 years of distinguished public service in the Louisiana Legislature.