

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 121

BY REPRESENTATIVES TARVER, BOURRIAQUE, CARRIER, WILFORD CARTER,  
FARNUM, GEYMANN, OWEN, AND ROMERO AND SENATORS ABRAHAM,  
REESE, AND STINE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Dr. Daryl V. Burckel on the occasion of his retirement as president of  
McNeese State University.

WHEREAS, Daryl V. Burckel attended McNeese State University on a football  
scholarship; as the starting middle linebacker, he led the Cowboys to two Southland  
Conference championships and an appearance in the Independence Bowl; he was also  
recognized as the 1980 All-Southland Conference Defensive Most Valuable Player, and he  
received the Spirit of Independence Award following the bowl game; and

WHEREAS, Daryl was a gifted scholar, and he earned one of four national NCAA  
postgraduate academic scholarships; he graduated from McNeese with a bachelor's degree  
in accounting in 1980 and a master's degree in business administration in 1982; he then  
began his pursuit of a doctorate in accounting at Mississippi State University and graduated  
in 1986; and

WHEREAS, after completing his education, Dr. Burckel held faculty positions at  
McNeese State University, the University of New Orleans, and Mississippi State University;  
he returned to McNeese as a full-time faculty member in 1992 and became a professor of  
accounting and served as head of the McNeese Department of Accounting, Finance, and  
Economics; he also held the Arthur Hollins III Endowed Professorship of Accounting for  
many years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Burckel has served as the seventh president of McNeese State  
University since July 1, 2017; as president, he set priorities and implemented initiatives to  
create a student-centric campus culture; he led the university through a tumultuous fourteen-

month period that included the COVID-19 pandemic, Hurricane Laura, Hurricane Delta, a severe winter storm, and a historically destructive flood; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Burckel's leadership, the university reinforced its commitment to academic excellence and student success by streamlining the enrollment process, creating seamless pathways for transfer students, reinstating the Division of Student Affairs, reducing textbook costs, establishing a doctoral program in the College of Nursing and Health Professions, creating the Student Success Center, and forming the first science, engineering, and mathematics college in the state; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Burckel is very civically engaged; he has served as president and director of the Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District Board, chairman of the board of directors for CHRISTUS St. Patrick Hospital, and chairman of the Southland Conference President's Group; he served on the board of directors for the Louisiana Housing Corporation, the Louisiana Land Trust, and Council for a Better Louisiana, and he currently sits on the board of directors for JD Bank; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Burckel is a veteran of Desert Storm and has achieved the rank of captain in the United States Army Reserves; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Daryl V. Burckel is a truly incredible individual whose many achievements warrant the highest measures of recognition.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Dr. Daryl V. Burckel on the occasion of his retirement from McNeese State University as its president; does hereby extend enduring appreciation to him for his service to McNeese State University, the state of Louisiana, and the United States; and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that he continue to prosper in all of his endeavors.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE