

2024 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 145

BY SENATORS STINE, ABRAHAM, BOUDREAUX AND REESE

COMMENDATIONS. Commends and congratulates former Senator Ronnie S. Johns on the occasion of his retirement.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend and congratulate former Senator Ronnie S. Johns on the occasion of his
3 retirement.

4 WHEREAS, Ronnie Johns has made significant contributions to the state of
5 Louisiana through his extensive service in elected office and as a regulatory leader in the
6 gaming industry; and

7 WHEREAS, Johns is a native of Bunkie, Louisiana, and a graduate of Bunkie High
8 School; he holds a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Louisiana at
9 Monroe and he began his professional career in Bunkie as a pharmacist in 1972; and

10 WHEREAS, Johns extensive record of public service includes both local and state
11 government; he followed in his father's footsteps to serve on the Bunkie City Council from
12 1978 to 1982 before changing careers from a pharmacist to an insurance agent and moving
13 from Bunkie to DeRidder before settling in Sulphur, Louisiana in 1983; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1989, he was appointed to the Louisiana State Mineral Board by then
15 Governor Charles "Buddy" Roemer and served on that board until 1992; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1995, he was elected to represent District 33 in the Louisiana House
17 of Representatives, where he proudly served from 1996 until 2008; in 2009, he was
18 appointed by then Governor Bobby Jindal to the Louisiana Lottery Corporation Board of

1 Directors, serving as its chairman until 2011; and

2 WHEREAS, in 2011, he was elected without opposition to serve District 27 in the
3 Louisiana Senate, and he easily won reelection in 2015, and was again elected without
4 opposition in 2019; and

5 WHEREAS, Johns served the people of Southwest Louisiana with distinction for
6 twelve years as a Representative and nine years as a Senator, championing many issues but
7 is best known for his dedication and leadership addressing adoption and foster care issues
8 and human trafficking; and

9 WHEREAS, for his efforts, Johns was recognized in Washington, D.C. by the
10 Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute as an Angel in Adoption and by the United
11 Way of Southeast Louisiana as a Legislative Champion for Public Policy for his work on
12 human trafficking; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2021, he was appointed by then Governor John Bel Edwards to serve
14 as chairman of the Louisiana Gaming Control Board; and

15 WHEREAS, Johns assumed leadership of the Gaming Control Board shortly after
16 sports wagering was approved by voters in 55 of the state's 64 parishes, bringing his
17 legislative experience to the complex process of developing sports wagering regulations; and

18 WHEREAS, developing sports wagering regulations was a challenging process that
19 required addressing legal complexities, ensuring technological safeguards, and recognizing
20 problem gambling, all of which were handled with patience and diligence under Johns'
21 leadership; and

22 WHEREAS, also during John's tenure as chairman, Louisiana's gaming industry saw
23 two of the fifteen legacy riverboat licenses become first-class, land-based properties, and
24 another three properties under similar extensive renovation; and

25 WHEREAS, Johns' leadership and integrity made a lasting impact on Louisiana's
26 gaming industry, ensuring fair and efficient regulation and contributing significantly to the
27 state's economy; and

28 WHEREAS, in all of his time as a public servant, Senator Ronnie Johns has shown
29 himself to be a true visionary leader guided by his commitment to integrity and enate ability
30 to work with all parties for the betterment of his community and the state; and

1 WHEREAS, by his side and his strongest supporter throughout his career has been
2 his beautiful wife, Michelle; in this next chapter, Senator Johns and Michelle plan to spend
3 as much time as possible enjoying life with their beloved daughter, Claire, her husband,
4 Marcus, and their adorable grandchildren, Lawston, Hudson, Francis, Locke and Lettie.

5 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
6 does hereby commend and congratulate former Senator Ronnie S. Johns on the occasion of
7 his retirement and extends best wishes for continued success in all his future endeavors.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
9 former Senator Ronnie Johns.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Dawn Romero Watson.

	DIGEST	
SR 145 Original	2024 Regular Session	Stine
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