

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 31

BY SENATOR LUNEAU

A RESOLUTION

To commend and recognize Donald G. "Don" Kelly, former legislator and attorney, for his distinguished public service and long-standing years of service to the people of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Donald G. "Don" Kelly, an attorney from Natchitoches Parish, has devoted his life to service to his community, his clients, and the citizens of the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Northwestern State University, Don earned a Juris Doctor degree from Louisiana State University, laying the foundation for a distinguished legal career; and

WHEREAS, admitted to the Louisiana State Bar in 1966, Donald Kelly has practiced law in this state with integrity, professionalism, and unwavering dedication for six decades; and

WHEREAS, Don is admitted to practice law before the Supreme Court of the United States, the United States Courts of Appeals for the Fifth and Eighth Circuits, and the United States District Courts for the Eastern, Western, and Middle Districts of Louisiana, which reflects the breadth and respect of his professional standing; and

WHEREAS, Don Kelly maintained active membership in the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Natchitoches Parish Bar Association, the Louisiana Association for Justice, and the American Association of Justice, and is a former president of the Louisiana Association for Justice; and

WHEREAS, having no prior experience in politics, Don was elected as a delegate for the 24th Representative District of the Constitutional Convention of 1973 and was subsequently elected to the Louisiana Senate, serving from 1976 to 1996, representing his constituents with professional diligence and distinction; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in the Senate, Don served on the Senate Committee on Judiciary A, the Senate Committee on Judiciary B, the joint budget committee, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, and the Senate Committee on Finance, making significant contributions during legislative deliberations affecting the people of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, from 1980 to 1987, he served as chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works providing steady leadership and oversight on matters critical to the state's infrastructure and economic development; and

WHEREAS, recognized as a distinguished Senate floor leader for two terms under Governor Edwin Edwards and for one term under Governor Buddy Roemer, Don demonstrated bipartisan respect, leadership, and the confidence of his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Don Kelly's public and professional career reflects a legacy of principled public service, commitment to justice, and steadfast dedication to the betterment of the people of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and recognize Donald G. "Don" Kelly for his exemplary service as a Louisiana State Senator and a distinguished member of the Louisiana Bar Association, and does further express its sincere appreciation for his many contributions to the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Donald G. "Don" Kelly as an expression of the Louisiana Senate's highest regard and respect and extends best wishes to Don for continued success and fulfillment.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE