

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 146

BY SENATORS ALARIO, ADLEY, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Honorable Robert W. "Bob" Kostelka, State Senator, for his many years of dedicated public service, both as a statesman in the Legislature of Louisiana and as an officer of the court and for his many outstanding contributions to the betterment of the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Senator Bob Kostelka has faithfully represented the constituency of Senate District No. 35, which lies in the heartland of the state and is composed of portions of Jackson, Lincoln, and Ouachita parishes in the north, sections of Winn and Grant parishes, and Rapides Parish in the south; it comprises a culturally diverse cross section of the state that contains small towns, metropolitan cities, fertile farmland, waterways, and vast forests; and

WHEREAS, when elected in 2003, Senator Bob Kostelka had perhaps the most comprehensive legal background of any legislator in criminal law; prior to his election to the Louisiana Senate, Judge Kostelka served in the judiciary system of North Louisiana as a district attorney and assistant district attorney for Ouachita Parish, and then was elected to the bench as a district judge presiding over the Fourth Judicial District Court and as an appellate judge elected to the Louisiana Court of Appeal, Second Circuit; and

WHEREAS, born in Shreveport, Senator Kostelka attended Centenary College, matriculated at Louisiana State University, and then graduated from LSU School of Law in 1957; he also received advanced prosecutory training at Northwestern University School of Law, in Chicago, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, he has affiliation credentials in several professional associations that include Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity, the American Bar Association, the Association of Appellate Judges, the Louisiana Bar Association, and the Fourth District Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his keen interest in criminal procedure, Senator Kostelka penned legislation that addresses child support, consumer protection, health care, election reform, education, courts and judicial funding, taxation, and governmental ethics for public officials and employees; and

WHEREAS, utilizing his expertise and interests, he garnered Senate assignments to standing committees on Judiciary A as vice chairman, Judiciary C and Senate and Governmental Affairs as chairman, Labor and Industrial Relations, Revenue and Fiscal Affairs, Transportation, Highways and Public Works, and Retirement, and the Select Committee on Vocational and Technical Education; and

WHEREAS, at home in Monroe, numerous civic and philanthropic organizations have benefitted from his active participation, such as the Salvation Army as a three-time chairman for which he received the Citizen of the Year Award; Rotary International, District 6190 as board member and treasurer; the Boy Scouts of America as scout master and district chairman; the YMCA and the Arthritis Foundation and the Muscular Dystrophy Association, acting as past campaign chairman for both nonprofits; and

WHEREAS, Bob married the former Felicia Marie Danna and, as Mrs. Kostelka, she is his helpmate in all things; Felicia accompanies her husband to the capitol during legislative sessions and frequently attends committee meetings; she is his guiding light and he is her rock, inseparable sweethearts for always; and

WHEREAS, as a faithful member of the First Presbyterian Church of Monroe, Bob serves his God as a witness to the power of his grace, as an elder of the church, and as a Sunday school teacher; and

WHEREAS, Senator Robert Adley, a fellow colleague who has served alongside Senator Kostelka for twelve years, affectionately referred to him as "my lawyer" when he advised Senator Adley during debate on a compromise agreement; and

WHEREAS, President Andrew Jackson once wrote, *"All the rights secured to the citizens under the Constitution are worth nothing, and a mere bubble, except guaranteed to them by an independent and virtuous judiciary"*; and

WHEREAS, as Senator Bob Kostelka prepares to return to the private sector, he deserves heartfelt acknowledgment for his service on the bench as an officer of the court and

for those extraordinary strides he has taken to improve the function of state government while serving as an exceptional member of the Louisiana Legislature.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Senator Robert W. "Bob" Kostelka on his years of dedicated public service to the citizens of this state and does hereby express the admiration and gratitude of this body for his exemplary service to both the legislative and judiciary branches of state government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Robert W. "Bob" Kostelka of Louisiana Senatorial District 35.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE