

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 97

BY SENATORS PERRY, BOUDREAUX, CORTEZ AND MILLS

A RESOLUTION

To commend and express appreciation to Mike Neustrom for thirty-eight years of dedicated and distinguished law enforcement service and four terms as the Lafayette Parish Sheriff on the occasion of his much deserved retirement.

WHEREAS, Michael Neustrom grew up in New Iberia, Louisiana, and was a graduate of Catholic High School; and

WHEREAS, Mike Neustrom moved to Lafayette in 1965 to pursue an education at the University of Southwest Louisiana (USL) on a football scholarship, after winning two conference championships and serving as captain his senior year, and working one year as a graduate assistant, he graduated in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science in Sociology, and in 2005 he was inducted into the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Football Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, he served as director of the University Police from 1970 to 1974 before leaving to further his education, moving his wife and three children to Huntsville, Texas, where he obtained a master's degree in police science and also earned a Doctorate in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University, participated in post doctoral programs at the University of Michigan and at Boston University, and executive development training for the FBI, in Quantico, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, from 1977 until his election in 2000, he served as a professor of criminal justice at the University of Louisiana Lafayette and also held the position as department head, during that same period he served as director of the Acadiana Law Enforcement Training Academy, a regional police training facility, which provides basic law enforcement training to an eight parish area; and

WHEREAS, he is married to Ceci O'Keefe Neustrom and through this union they are the loving parents of six wonderful children and have been blessed with a number of

cherished grandchildren, and were the recipients of the "Family of the Year" by Monsignor Alexander Sigur; and

WHEREAS, Mike has proudly and bravely served in the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office for four terms, and in some capacity of law enforcement for thirty-eight years, he has focused on reducing crime and improving public safety; and under his leadership the office earned the coveted Triple Crown Award for accreditation from the National Sheriff's Association - a recognition granted to only thirty-seven agencies in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Mike Neustrom is a highly admired citizen of Louisiana who works tirelessly on a multitude of business, civic, and religious causes, among some he is co-founder of St. Joseph's Diner and the former president of Lafayette Catholic Service Center, a board member of AMI Kids, and a master gardener; and

WHEREAS, he plans on enjoying some of his hobbies upon retirement, including but not limited to walking, swimming, guitar, golf and, more recently, fishing; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that a sincere and heartfelt measure of appreciation be expressed to Mike Neustrom for his remarkable term of professional service, including his guidance and leadership to his community, his parish, his state, and his country; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend in great measure upon people like Mike Neustrom who use their talents and resources to lead by example, with ethics, and integrity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and express appreciation to Mike Neustrom for his years of dedicated and distinguished law enforcement service and as the Lafayette Parish Sheriff for four terms on the occasion of his retirement and wishes him much success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mike Neustrom.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE