

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 139

BY SENATORS MILLS, ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, BROWN, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Clark Raymond Cossé III upon the occasion of his retirement from his illustrious forty-three-year career in governmental relations.

WHEREAS, Mr. Cossé was born and educated in New Orleans and was an accomplished graduate of the parochial educational system, and, upon receiving his high school diploma, moved to Baton Rouge to attend Louisiana State University; and

WHEREAS, after attending Louisiana State University and later the University of New Orleans, Clark Cossé returned to Baton Rouge, this time to enroll in law school at Louisiana State University; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Mr. Cossé earned his Juris Doctor from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center and, shortly thereafter, he embarked on what would become a forty-three-year career in governmental relations, beginning with the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, which was followed by a move to Shreveport where he assumed the duties of Chief Lobbyist for the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, though Clark Cossé's representation of the chamber was exemplary, he returned to south Louisiana and accepted a position as lobbyist and chief counsel for the Southern Forest Products Association, where, again, he distinguished himself in articulating the needs and concerns of the economically significant timber industry in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, having proven his skills in governmental relations, his expertise in articulating the requirements of his client, and his natural affability, Mr. Cossé was offered a position with the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, as the primary governmental relations advocate for the interests of business in the state of Louisiana, Mr. Cossé worked tirelessly, produced exceptional results for his client, and established himself as a man of his word and an articulate representative for educating lawmakers regarding the essential role of business and industry in the economic prosperity of the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cossé is well known for his keen insight into what trends and obstacles the future would bring and has always been interested in moving Louisiana forward and many of his career accomplishments reflect this vision, but none more than his collaboration with Denis Paul Juge to coauthor the *Workers' Compensation Desk Book*, which was published by the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry in 1993; and

WHEREAS, after eleven years of tireless representation of the business and industrial sector in Louisiana, in 1994, Mr. Cossé joined the Louisiana Hospital Association as lobbyist and chief counsel, eventually stepping into the positions of chief governmental officer and general counsel, representing many of Louisiana's hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cossé has, throughout his career, been known for his reputation for fairness, honesty, and knowledge of the law, all traits that earned him an appointment to the board of the Patients' Compensation Fund, which oversees the payment of large medical malpractice claims against private physicians, hospitals, and other health care providers; and

WHEREAS, during his service on this board, Clark Cossé was elected to eight one-year terms as chairman, guiding the actions of the fund on behalf of those Louisianians harmed by private health care providers; and

WHEREAS, over the years of his career in government, Clark Cossé has been a tireless advocate for his clients while operating with the belief that, especially as a lobbyist, he should never compromise his honesty, and he held himself to maintain high moral and ethical standards; and

WHEREAS, while working diligently to represent the interests of the business community at the legislature, Clark Cossé met and married Lisa Black, the lovely woman with whom he has shared his life; together the two have raised their delightful children, daughter Elizabeth and son Remy, instilling in them the values and character traits that would serve them well as they moved into their own work lives, primarily, maintaining

personal integrity, committing oneself to a tireless work ethic, and remaining dedicated to one's family and faith while incorporating humor into their lives every day; and

WHEREAS, Clark Cossé has taken seriously the responsibility to mentor younger lobbyists, model for them the values and ethical standards that have distinguished his career, and set an example of how to represent aggressively one's client while maintaining those standards; and

WHEREAS, as Mr. Cossé leaves a distinguished career, he gains the time and freedom to travel with Lisa to those state capitals that they have yet to explore and enjoy well-deserved relaxation with his family and friends.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Clark Raymond Cossé III upon the occasion of his retirement from an illustrious forty-three-year career in governmental relations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Clark Raymond Cossé III.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES