

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 24

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Patrick Fontenot upon his induction into the St. Landry Parish Democratic Party Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, Patrick Fontenot was born to Dudley and Melba Fontenot on March 17, 1946, in Opelousas, Louisiana, where he has lived for most of his life; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Fontenot graduated from Holy Ghost School in Opelousas in 1963, studied at Southern University in 1963 and 1964, and furthered his education in business administration at Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1968 and 1969; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fontenot served in the United States Air Force from 1964 through 1968, and was honorably discharged with a rank of sergeant; and

WHEREAS, while living in New Orleans from 1968 through 1981, Mr. Fontenot married his first wife with whom he has three children, Chris, Michelle, and Rachael, and in 1977 he married wife Patricia, with whom he has two children, Marcelle and Christine; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Fontenot's life in the world of business and commerce in both Opelousas and New Orleans began in 1966; and

WHEREAS, during the time period from 1969 until 1981, Mr. Fontenot was a cashier for Timesaver, Incorporated and held several positions with Delta Airlines in New Orleans; serving in the areas of ramp, fuel, passenger, and control agent; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Fontenot returned to Opelousas with his family and began his career with Williams Progressive Life and Accident Insurance Company as debit agent, and in a mere three years, was given additional responsibilities at the company; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, Mr. Fontenot was named district manager for Williams Progressive, followed by another promotion to the position of executive vice president of the company in 1987; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Fontenot's dedication to Williams Progressive and his extraordinary abilities propelled him to the positions of chief executive officer and president of the company in 1999, a mere eighteen years after beginning his employment; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fontenot presently serves as chief executive officer and sits on the board of directors of Williams Progressive Life and Accident Insurance Company; and

WHEREAS, during his active business career in Opelousas, Patrick Fontenot has served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Opelousas/St. Landry Chamber of Commerce, First Federal Savings and Loan of Opelousas, Teche Federal Savings Bank, and has served as chairman of the board of United Bank and Trust Company of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fontenot has been appointed to several prestigious positions, including the Southern University Board of Supervisors from 1990 through 1997, serving as board chair in 1994 and 1995 and the Louisiana Insurers conference board for ten years, serving two years as chairman; and

WHEREAS, during Patrick Fontenot's lengthy career in public service he has been appointed to numerous positions of consequence, many as a citizen working on government issues and including the following: the Louisiana Insurance Rating Commission; the Opelousas Rural Economic and Community Development Loan committee; the Acadiana Railroad Development District; the Solid Waste Recycling committee for St. Landry and Evangeline Parishes; the Opelousas Citizen Advisory committee; the Opelousas Industrial Inducement committee; and the Economic Development Task Force of the Louisiana chapter of the National Conference of Black Mayors; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Fontenot was a leader in many of these endeavors, including having served as the president of Zydeco Housing, a nonprofit organization that provides decent, safe, and affordable homes for very low to moderate income families; as an interim member of the St. Landry Parish School Board; and as chairman of the Opelousas Parks and Recreation Commission baseball committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fontenot maintained membership in Phi Beta Sigma, Rotary International, and Frontiers International; and

WHEREAS, with a lifetime of service to family, work, and community, Patrick Fontenot has served tirelessly to improve his city and the entire Acadiana area and through that lifetime of service, has earned the honor bestowed by the democratic party of St. Landry Parish; and

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Democratic Parish Executive Committee annually names persons of high ethical and moral character who have promoted the principles of constitutional equality, personal liberty, economic opportunity, and government and fiscal responsibility and whose impact has positively influenced the entire parish and state; and

WHEREAS, the Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, who is then considered to be a member of the St. Landry Democratic Party Hall of Fame, is also a person who recognizes and respects the diversity of all Americans while promoting the unity of all, leading his political party and displaying strong leadership throughout his career; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Fontenot has demonstrated a devotion to all of these principles of the St. Landry Democratic Party with a lifetime of efforts in the legal arena, championing these principles that are so essential to the ideals of American democracy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Patrick Fontenot upon his induction into the St. Landry Parish Democratic Party Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Patrick Fontenot of Opelousas, Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE