

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY REPRESENTATIVE BISHOP

A RESOLUTION

To commend Christopher F. D'Elia, dean of the Louisiana State University College of the Coast and Environment and professor of oceanography and coastal sciences, upon his receipt in 2019 of the first ever awarded "Wes Tunnell Lifetime Recognition for Gulf Science and Conservation".

WHEREAS, at the 2019 Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill and Ecosystem Science Conference held in New Orleans in February of 2019, the Gulf of Mexico University Research Collaborative presented to Christopher F. D'Elia, dean of the Louisiana State University College of the Coast and Environment and professor of oceanography and coastal sciences, the first "Wes Tunnell Lifetime Recognition for Gulf Science and Conservation" award, named in honor of Dr. John Wesley "Wes" Tunnell Jr., a prolific marine ecologist and biologist in the Life Sciences Department of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and Endowed Chair of Biodiversity and Conservation Science at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies; and

WHEREAS, Christopher F. D'Elia, dean of the Louisiana State University College of the Coast and Environment and professor of oceanography and coastal sciences, was recognized by the Gulf of Mexico University Research Collaborative for his lifetime of dedication and achievement in support of a healthy and sustainable Gulf of Mexico environment and economy; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana State University has a coastal legacy dating back nearly a century and is at the forefront of coastal and environmental discoveries and research on every continent, where more than two hundred faculty members teach and equip nearly one thousand graduates per year with the multidisciplinary tools needed to address coastal, marine, energy, and environmental issues; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana State University is recognized globally as a renowned leader in educating the coastal workforce and for providing the gold-standard for coastal and environmental science, investigation, and expertise; and

WHEREAS, the college's Coastal Environmental Science program proudly boasts that, to date, one hundred percent of its undergraduates acquire employment or acceptance into graduate or professional programs within two months of graduation; and

WHEREAS, Christopher F. D'Elia, the university's longest-serving dean, has served as professor and dean of the College of the Coast and Environment since 2009 and has brought passion, experience, and leadership to his position; and

WHEREAS, during Christopher F. D'Elia's tenure as dean, he has expanded the School of the Coast and Environment into a college and has established an award-winning outreach program with students from Scotlandville Magnet High School to pair students underrepresented in the sciences with college mentors who help the students complete environmental research projects and pursue college scholarships; and

WHEREAS, Christopher F. D'Elia has performed outstanding community service through his participation in more than twenty professional and outreach organizations, has held numerous research grants, and has authored or coauthored more than sixty scientific publications on the nutrient dynamics of estuaries and coral reefs, science policy and energy, and the environment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Christopher F. D'Elia on receiving the "Wes Tunnell Lifetime Recognition for Gulf Science and Conservation" award and wishes him the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Christopher F. D'Elia, dean of the Louisiana State University College of the Coast and Environment.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES