

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 42

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

A RESOLUTION

To commend Christopher C. John upon the occasion of his retirement as the president of the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association, at the end of an illustrious eleven year tenure, and for more than thirty years in the arena of governmental affairs.

WHEREAS, Christopher John was born on January 5, 1960, in Crowley, Louisiana, where his family owned and operated a transportation company for generations; and

WHEREAS, Chris John left the friendly environs of Acadia Parish to attend college at Louisiana State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration; and

WHEREAS, Chris John is married to the former Payton Smith of Leesville, Louisiana, and the couple have twin sons, Hays and Harrison; and

WHEREAS, Mr. John began his political career as a member of the Crowley City Council, the youngest ever elected; he moved on to serve in the Louisiana House of Representatives from 1988 through 1996, when he was elected to the United States House of Representatives where he served for eight years, from January 3, 1997, through January 3, 2005; and

WHEREAS, while in Congress, Chris John fought for many causes important to Louisiana and its citizens, including, championing efforts to protect Louisiana's threatened coastline, the endeavors to develop and support a high tech economy in the state, and to advance the issues important to Louisiana's farmers, oil and gas producers, and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, Chris John served on the U. S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce where he worked to advance an aggressive agenda, including helping parishes and counties nationwide combat the West Nile virus, and founding the Congressional I-49 Caucus that at the time was the first ever bipartisan, multi-state coalition which focused on the completion of Interstate 49 from New Orleans to Kansas City, as an important interstate transportation corridor; and

WHEREAS, also on the national level, Mr. John was successful in efforts to craft a new national energy policy and he served as leader of the "Blue Dog Coalition", which was the voice of conservative members of the democratic party in Congress; and

WHEREAS, as a congressman and in support of his constituents, Chris John was committed to working across party lines to accomplish goals that were for the benefit of the entire country rather than giving way to partisan divides between political party members; and

WHEREAS, following his career in elective politics, Mr. John entered the arena of governmental affairs from the public interest perspective and he served as managing director of Ogilvy Government Relations, a bipartisan governmental affairs firm located in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, eventually, the pull to return to their native Louisiana brought Chris John and his family to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he became the leader of the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association, which is the oldest trade association in the state, having been founded in 1929; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association exclusively represents all sectors of the oil and gas industry operating in Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, as president, Mr. John directed the operation, budget, staff, and advancement of the association on behalf of the association's one hundred member companies; and

WHEREAS, as the president of the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association, Chris John raised the profile of the association on both the national and state levels; and

WHEREAS, after twenty years in elective politics and thirteen in private governmental affairs, both on the national and state levels, Chris John's skill in bringing consensus and a reputation for operating successfully within the political arena have made him an integral part of the oil and gas industry and his retirement from the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association will leave a void in the arena of governmental affairs that will not be easily filled.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Christopher C. John upon the occasion of his retirement as the president of the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association, at the end of an illustrious eleven year tenure, and for more than thirty years in the arena of governmental affairs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mr. Chris John.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE