

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 147

BY SENATORS ALARIO, ALLAIN, 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, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To recognize and highly commend Senator Conrad Appel for his years of dedicated and distinguished service to the Senate of Louisiana, the people of the parishes of Jefferson and Orleans (District 9), and the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Conrad Appel received a degree in electrical engineering from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, in 1973; and

WHEREAS, while Senator Appel has numerous business endeavors, his primary focus is serving as president of Construction South, Inc., a family business that specializes in industrial and commercial general construction projects; and

WHEREAS, Conrad Appel has long been involved in promoting local and regional economic development initiatives, he also supports a variety of civic and philanthropic activities; and

WHEREAS, when the District 9 Senate seat became vacant, Conrad Appel, with the support of his wife Carol and his children, Connor and Whitney, decided to take a leap of faith and run for office, knowing that to be in a position to make a difference, you have to have a seat at the table; and

WHEREAS, Senator Appel was first elected in 2008 in a special election to fill the mostly unexpired term of his predecessor, and was easily reelected for a second and third term of office; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in the Senate, Senator Conrad Appel served with

commitment and distinction on many committees including the Senate Committee on Education, serving as chairman from 2012-2016, the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality, serving as vice chairman from 2016-2020, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs, the Senate Committee on Judiciary A, the Senate Committee on Judiciary C, serving as vice chairman from 2009-2012, the Senate Committee on Retirement, the Senate Select Committee on Vocational-Technical Education, the Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs, the Senate Committee on Finance, the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, and the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay; and

WHEREAS, while serving as chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, Senator Appel authored major K-12 reform legislation to strengthen the school and district accountability system, revamp the teacher evaluation and tenure process, mandate that teachers and other educational employees be compensated based on performance versus years of service, revise the textbook review and adoption process, and create the Early Childhood Care and Education Network; and

WHEREAS, understanding the critical need to provide greatly needed infrastructure to increase the availability and use of technology in public elementary schools, Senator Appel passed legislation establishing the office of instructional technology in the state Department of Education, requiring the establishment of a statewide educational technology plan, submission of an annual school technology report, and creating the Technology Strategy Task Force, which he chaired; and

WHEREAS, Senator Appel also authored notable legislation to streamline, reduce duplication of programs, and increase the effectiveness and efficiency of postsecondary education, including the development of a common application for postsecondary institutions, the revision of the master plan for postsecondary education, and development and implementation of an outcomes-based funding formula for postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, understanding that a healthy business climate is essential to a dynamic state economy, Senator Appel authored and supported numerous pieces of legislation to reduce unnecessary regulation and other impediments to the state's business and industry sector; and

WHEREAS, Senator Appel's business and economic development experience led him to look beyond the state's borders and develop a vision to create and promote initiatives to increase international trade and authored legislation creating the Louisiana International Commerce Initiative and the Task Force on Shipping, Economic Development, and Trade to develop a strategic plan for international trade; and

WHEREAS, Senator Conrad Appel worked diligently to improve the quality of life for all Louisiana citizens, he was selfless in his pursuit of the common good, with no thought of who received the credit; all that mattered was the that goal was accomplished.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Senator Conrad Appel for his years of dedicated and distinguished service in the Senate of Louisiana, the people of the parishes of Jefferson and Orleans (District 9), and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Conrad Appel.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE