

2019 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 271

BY SENATORS PETERSON, BARROW, COLOMB, HEWITT AND MIZELL

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Maura Donahue for her many accomplishments and exemplary service to the business community in Louisiana, the United States, and internationally.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To recognize and most highly commend Maura W. Donahue for her many accomplishments  
3 and exemplary service to the business community in Louisiana, the United States,  
4 and internationally.

5 WHEREAS, Maura Walsh Donahue was born and raised in New Orleans, attended  
6 Sacred Heart of Jesus High School, and the University of Southwestern Louisiana, and she  
7 is an owner and Executive Vice President of DonahueFavret Contractors, Inc. and;

8 WHEREAS, Maura Donahue joined DonahueFavret Contractors in 1981 and was one  
9 of the few women in the contracting industry serving in the difficult position of project  
10 manager; and

11 WHEREAS, Maura's intelligence and poised, self-controlled demeanor allowed her  
12 to surmount the challenges of managing large construction projects and earn the respect and  
13 approval of her coworkers at all levels in her male-dominated chosen profession; and

14 WHEREAS, Maura quickly became an integral part of DonahueFavret, rising to the  
15 position of vice president; and charged with overseeing business development and the  
16 administrative functions of the company; in 2010 she was named executive vice president;  
17 and she also serves as President of DonahueFavret Contractors Holding Company; and

18 WHEREAS, Maura Donahue also shares her energy and talents with local and state

1 economic development organizations and initiatives: she currently chairs the Northshore  
2 Regional Board and serves on the boards of Resource Bank, the Northshore Community  
3 Foundation, Legatus Northshore, and the board of directors and executive committee of the  
4 Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI); she has also previously served on  
5 the boards of Blueprint Louisiana, the State Board of Commerce and Industry, the St.  
6 Tammany Parish Economic Development Foundation, Habitat for Humanity St. Tammany  
7 West, and on the advisory board of Entergy Louisiana; she is the former chair of the board  
8 of the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, LABI, Greater New Orleans Inc., was a  
9 member of the Board of Regents of Our Lady of Holy Cross College, and the Committee of  
10 100 for Economic Development in Louisiana; and

11 WHEREAS, Maura Donahue is ever willing to share her considerable leadership  
12 skills with others and is a graduate of the Council for a Better Louisiana's Leadership  
13 Louisiana and Leadership St. Tammany West, who bestowed upon Maura its Leadership  
14 Alumni of the Year; and

15 WHEREAS, Maura was twice named a Women of the Year honoree by the New  
16 Orleans Publishing Group; in 2004 she was awarded Person of the Year by the Associated  
17 Builders and Contractors Bayou Chapter; in 2007 she was honored as Woman of the Year  
18 for St. Tammany West Business and Professional Women; in 2008 she was inducted into the  
19 Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame; in 2013 she was named Corporate Executive  
20 of the Year by the Louisiana Center for Women in Government and Business; in 2014,  
21 Maura was honored by Our Lady of Holy Cross College which bestowed upon her an  
22 Honorary Doctorate Degree; and in 2016 she received the inaugural Ed Steimel  
23 Achievement Award from LABI in recognition of her "extraordinary efforts to improve the  
24 quality of life in Louisiana."; and

25 WHEREAS, Maura's vision, expertise, and team-building ability did not go  
26 unnoticed at the national level; in 1998, she was elected by LABI to be Louisiana's  
27 representative on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, where she was named chair of the Small  
28 Business Council, an underutilized committee that Maura built into an influential body, with  
29 many seeking membership; and

30 WHEREAS, replicating her success at the state level, Maura's stature at the national

1 level continued to grow, and in 2005 - the year Hurricane Katrina devastated her native city -  
2 she became the first woman to be named chair of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; and

3 WHEREAS, in 2005, while DonahueFavret and its employees reached out to their  
4 community by opening their offices to become the first Red Cross Hurricane Katrina  
5 Financial Aid Center, Maura used her position as chair of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
6 to serve as an ambassador for Katrina recovery efforts on the national and international  
7 stage; and

8 WHEREAS, in 2016, when Maura received a cancer diagnosis, she fought the  
9 disease with the grace, strength, faith, and determination she brings to every aspect of her  
10 life; even while undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatments, Maura's commitment  
11 to her family, her work, and her community did not flag, and she is now in remission and  
12 fully engaged in her numerous and varied activities; and

13 WHEREAS, in the 2019 search for their next chairman, the U.S. Chamber of  
14 Commerce once again called upon Maura Donahue, who had served them so well before,  
15 to serve as chair; thus Maura is breaking new ground once again with the distinction of being  
16 the only woman to serve twice as chair of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; and

17 WHEREAS, Maura is married to State Senator Jack Donahue, a partnership that is  
18 a true union of heart, spirit, and mind; and

19 WHEREAS, Maura and Jack are not only the cornerstone of DonahueFavret  
20 Contractors, they are the center of their blended family of six children and their spouses,  
21 nineteen grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
23 does hereby recognize and most highly commend Maura W. Donahue for her many  
24 accomplishments and exemplary service to the business community in Louisiana, the United  
25 States, and internationally.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
27 Maura W. Donahue.

