

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 271

BY SENATORS PETERSON, 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, PRICE, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Maura Donahue also shares her energy and talents with local and state economic development organizations and initiatives; she currently chairs the Northshore Regional Board and serves on the boards of Resource Bank, the Northshore Community Foundation, Legatus Northshore, and the board of directors and executive committee of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI); she has also previously served on the boards of Blueprint Louisiana, the State Board of Commerce and Industry, the St.

Tammany Parish Economic Development Foundation, Habitat for Humanity St. Tammany West, and on the advisory board of Entergy Louisiana; she is the former chair of the board of the West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, LABI, Greater New Orleans Inc., was a member of the Board of Regents of Our Lady of Holy Cross College, and the Committee of 100 for Economic Development in Louisiana; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, replicating her success at the state level, Maura's stature at the national level continued to grow, and in 2005 - the year Hurricane Katrina devastated her native city - she became the first woman to be named chair of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, while DonahueFavret and its employees reached out to their community by opening their offices to become the first Red Cross Hurricane Katrina Financial Aid Center, Maura used her position as chair of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce

to serve as an ambassador for Katrina recovery efforts on the national and international stage; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE