

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 121

BY SENATORS CORTEZ, ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BARROW, BERNARD, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, DUPLESSIS, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HARRIS, HENRY, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, KLEINPETER, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, MORRIS, PEACOCK, POPE, PRICE, REESE, STINE, TALBOT, TARVER, WHITE AND WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Honorable Gary L. Smith Jr. on his twenty-four years of distinguished public service in the Legislature of Louisiana and to express enduring gratitude for his outstanding contributions made on behalf of his constituents of Jefferson, Lafourche, St. Charles, and St. John the Baptist parishes, and the state of Louisiana, particularly during his tenure as a regarded member of the Louisiana Senate representing District No. 19 and the Louisiana House of Representatives representing District No. 56.

WHEREAS, Senator Smith is the epitome of a public servant and has served with distinction during his six terms in the legislature since taking office in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Senator Smith is a lifelong resident of the River Parish Region and earned a bachelor of science degree from Louisiana State University, a juris doctor degree from Loyola Law School, and a master of maritime law degree from Tulane Law School; and

WHEREAS, Senator Smith did not go into politics with an agenda, but instead with the goal of making Louisiana a better place to live and work, a mentality ingrained in him by his mentor and grandfather Henry A. Smith, who served as treasurer of the State Democratic Party for over twenty years; and

WHEREAS, his grandfather impressed upon him that loyalty and trustworthiness are of the utmost importance and that "No matter how thin you slice the cheese, there are always two sides"; and

WHEREAS, his grandfather encouraged him to enter into politics in 1989, and he was selected by Congressman Billy Tauzin to serve as a capitol page during the 101st Congress and later served as an intern for Senator John Breaux; and

WHEREAS, a few months after law school graduation, he answered his call to public

service by entering a crowded field for the House District 56 seat, winning a plurality in the primary and being elected in the run-off with an impressive fifty-six percent of the vote; and

WHEREAS, he was sworn in as a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives at the young age of twenty-seven in 2000; and

WHEREAS, during his service in the House of Representatives, then-Representative Smith's committee service included serving as a member of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, the House Committee on Appropriations, the House Committee on Insurance, and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, and as vice-chairman of the House Committee on Commerce and chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Economic Development; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in the Senate, Senator Smith has served with great diligence, dedication, and empathy as chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary B for two terms, in addition to serving as a member of the Senate Committee on Insurance, the Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs, the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, the Senate Executive Committee, and the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay; and

WHEREAS, he has served as a member of the Acadiana Delegation, the Democratic Caucus, the Jefferson Parish Delegation, the River Parishes Caucus, the Louisiana Rural Caucus, the Louisiana Rural Caucus Executive Committee, and as co-chairman of the Louisiana Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus for the last four years; and

WHEREAS, Senator Smith is well-known in the legislature for his cool and collected demeanor and his trademark wit and dry sense of humor have diffused many contentious debates; and

WHEREAS, his measured and deliberate approach to each issue has earned the deep respect of his colleagues and enabled him to work across party lines to benefit the people of his district and the state; and

WHEREAS, as a committee chairman, his composed leadership style and command of the legislative process are evidenced by his level-headed thinking, keen understanding of the importance of timing, and ability to see the big picture; and

WHEREAS, he takes particular pride in his ability to utilize his practical, legal, and

business expertise throughout the committee process; and

WHEREAS, Senator Smith developed a passion for business-related issues, correctional reform, improving transportation infrastructure, and flood protection during his time in the legislature; and

WHEREAS, he was instrumental in securing funding necessary for essential infrastructure projects that affect the people of Senate District No. 19 and House District No. 56, including water, sewerage, drainage, energy, healthcare, and road projects; and

WHEREAS, Senator Smith balances his professional life with a commendable record of community involvement and philanthropic endeavors, including serving on the Board of Governors for the Ochsner Medical Center-Kenner and donating his time for Thanksgiving food basket giveaways and Christmas toy drives; and

WHEREAS, he has been the deserving recipient of numerous honors and awards throughout the course of his tenure including the Coastal Conservation Association Louisiana Conservation Champion Award, the Fifth Circuit Judges Association Legislator of the Year Award, the Who's Who in American Politics Award, and the Louisiana Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association's Gold Standard Recipient Award; and

WHEREAS, Senator Smith is guided by his faith and is an active member of First Baptist Church of Norco, where he serves as an elder; and

WHEREAS, he credits his time at the legislature with meeting the love of his life, Katherine Mosely Smith; and

WHEREAS, with much in common, including a love for politics, they began a relationship in 2007, were engaged in 2008 on the observation deck of the Louisiana State Capitol, and were married in March 2009; and

WHEREAS, the couple are the proud parents of their son Henry Wilson Smith, named after Senator Smith's grandfather; and daughter Anna-Pierce Katherine Smith, named after Katherine's great-grandfather, Governor Huey Pierce Long; and

WHEREAS, Senator Smith has consistently fought for couples struggling with infertility after he and Katherine's personal journey and became well-known as a fierce advocate for making gestational carrier contracts enforceable in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Senator Smith leaves the legislature having made his mark, known as

a consummate statesman, who treated others with respect and handled himself with dignity and class while negotiating tough compromises; and

WHEREAS, Senator Smith is grateful for the support of his beloved family, close friends, and cherished colleagues and as he prepares to begin the next exciting and productive chapter of his life, he merits a sincere measure of commendation for twenty-four years of distinguished public service in the Legislature of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana hereby commends the Honorable Gary L. Smith Jr. and hereby extends honor and recognition to him for his outstanding contributions, particularly during his tenure as a member of the Louisiana Senate, which has been marked by his allegiance to his constituents in Jefferson, Lafourche, St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana hereby expresses enduring gratitude to Senator Smith for his service to the citizens of Louisiana and extends to him the best wishes from all of his colleagues for continued prosperity and success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Gary L. Smith Jr.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE