

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 55

BY SENATORS CATHEY, JACKSON AND MORRIS AND REPRESENTATIVES
ECHOLS AND GADBERRY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Dr. Don Coker, Ouachita Parish Superintendent upon his retirement and to congratulate him for over thirty-five years of service in the field of education.

WHEREAS, Don Coker, a graduate of Louisiana Tech University earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in Health and Physical Education, a master's plus 30 hours in Administration and Supervision, and his Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership; and

WHEREAS, upon obtaining his education he chose to enter the honorable profession of teaching in Louisiana, specifically in the Ouachita Parish School System; and

WHEREAS, with the well-being of faculty, students, and the community always in the forefront of his mind, many describe him as a gifted educational leader whose leadership earned the district regional, statewide, and national recognition for best educational practices; and

WHEREAS, he worked for over thirty-five years as an educator in the Ouachita Parish School System, serving as a teacher and coach at West Ouachita High School, transferring to principal at Calhoun Middle School, then serving as Director of Personnel and Middle Schools, followed by a subsequent appointment as Assistant Superintendent before his current appointment in July 2015 as Superintendent of Ouachita Parish Schools; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Coker has received a plethora of awards, such as Principal of the Year and has been highly sought after to share his expertise and extraordinary insight on various leadership committees and community boards which he served on; and

WHEREAS, as a member of New Chapel Hill Baptist Church, he serves as a Deacon and the Sunday School Director; and

WHEREAS, at the recent Ouachita Parish School Board meeting, Dr. Coker officially announced that he would be retiring on July 4, 2023, and added, "I'll be able to remember that because that's Independence Day and it will be true independence when I actually retire."; and

WHEREAS, being married to his best friend and biggest supporter, Pat Richardson Coker, maybe their new independence will allow them to spend more time traveling and with their growing family; and

WHEREAS, future generations will be bereft of his educational leadership and many past and current colleagues will greatly miss him; it is appropriate that Dr. Don Coker be commended for his dedication to the field of education and for the countless lives he has touched.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Dr. Don Coker upon his retirement after a long and distinguished career in education, does hereby record for posterity his noble accomplishments, and express appreciation for his years of service to the citizens of Ouachita Parish and the people of Louisiana, and does hereby extend to him best wishes during his "independence" time in retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Don Coker.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES