

2023 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 153

BY SENATOR MIZELL

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Senate President Patrick Page Cortez for his years of distinguished public service.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Honorable Patrick Page Cortez, Senate President, on his sixteen years of  
3 dedicated public service in the Legislature of Louisiana and to express enduring  
4 gratitude for his outstanding contributions made on behalf of his constituents of  
5 Lafayette Parish and the state of Louisiana, particularly during his tenure as a  
6 distinguished member of the Louisiana Senate representing District No. 23 and the  
7 Louisiana House of Representatives representing District No. 43.

8 WHEREAS, Patrick Page Cortez was born in Lafayette, Louisiana, to Marion and  
9 Tracy Cortez who taught him the importance of hard work, relying on your faith, and  
10 treating all people with respect and dignity; and

11 WHEREAS, his father passed along many tidbits of advice and one that has served  
12 Senator Cortez well in politics, "Make sure that you hear both sides of the story before you  
13 decide"; and

14 WHEREAS, after graduating Lafayette High, he obtained bachelor's degrees in  
15 education and general studies from the University of Southwestern Louisiana, now known  
16 as the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where he pledged Sigma Nu fraternity; and

17 WHEREAS, Senator Cortez met the woman of his dreams, Angela Stoma, in the fall  
18 of 1983 and the lovebirds were married in 1985; and

1           WHEREAS, Senator Cortez has a lifelong passion for coaching and his first coaching  
2 and teaching job was at Catholic High in New Iberia; and

3           WHEREAS, he later moved to Lafayette High, his alma mater, where he taught  
4 Advanced American History and coached football, basketball, and track; and

5           WHEREAS, when his children were young, Senator Cortez left Lafayette High and  
6 became an active participant in his family business which allowed him to spend more time  
7 with his wife and children; and

8           WHEREAS, he coached his son Matthew in almost every sport he played until high  
9 school, never missing a game, and he also never missed a dance review or game where his  
10 daughter Maria cheered; and

11           WHEREAS, in 2007, with the encouragement of family and friends, Patrick Page  
12 Cortez ran for and won the House of Representatives District No. 43 seat; and

13           WHEREAS, in his only term as a Representative, he was appointed to the House  
14 Committee on Appropriations, where he quickly mastered the budget process and was  
15 known to carry a copy of the state constitution for reference during debates; and

16           WHEREAS, during his tenure in the House of Representatives, then-Representative  
17 Cortez's committee service included the House Committee on Insurance, House Committee  
18 on Appropriations Subcommittee on Business Development, and the House Committee on  
19 Retirement; and

20           WHEREAS, in the 2011 election, Patrick Page Cortez won the Senate District No.  
21 23 seat unopposed, was reelected in 2015 with 84% of the vote, and was reelected again  
22 without opposition in 2019; and

23           WHEREAS, upon his election to the upper chamber, Senator Cortez brought his keen  
24 business insight and corporate background to full measure with service on the standing  
25 committees including membership on Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer  
26 Protection, and International Affairs, Senate Committee on Retirement, Senate Committee  
27 on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, serving as chairman, Senate Committee on  
28 Local and Municipal Affairs, Senate Committee on Natural Resources, and Senate  
29 Committee on Education; and

30           WHEREAS, in 2020, Senator Cortez was unanimously chosen by his colleagues to

1 serve as their President; and

2 WHEREAS, during his tenure as Senate President, he served proudly on the Revenue  
3 Estimating Conference, Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, Joint Legislative  
4 Committee on Capital Outlay, Senate Executive Committee, Capitol Security Council,  
5 serving as co-chairman, Interim Emergency Board, serving as chairman, Legislative  
6 Budgetary Control Council, Senate Select Committee on Coastal Restoration and Flood  
7 Control, Joint Select Committee on Louisiana Economic Recovery, serving as co-chairman,  
8 State Bond Commission, Coastal Protection and Restoration Financing Corporation,  
9 Governor's Task Force on Transportation Infrastructure Investment, Latino Commission,  
10 Louisiana Transportation Authority, The Energy Council, Office Facilities Corporation,  
11 Select Committee on High School Interscholastic Athletics, Senate Presidents' Forum, and  
12 the Special Study Committee of the Senate on Legislative Sessions; and

13 WHEREAS, Senator Cortez is known amongst his colleagues for his approachable  
14 nature and willingness to work across party lines; and

15 WHEREAS, as Senate President, he has promoted the independence of the Senate  
16 while he improved communications with the House of Representatives; and

17 WHEREAS, President Cortez has proven to be a leader of boundless energy and  
18 ability, a person of great empathy and vision, and an effective coalition builder; and

19 WHEREAS, while serving in the Legislature, he has been a consistent supporter of  
20 teachers' pay raises, funding for education, funding transportation projects to address  
21 construction backlog, investments for the completion of I-49 north and south, funding for  
22 the megaprojects to address necessary improvements to roads, bridges, and state highways,  
23 funding for retirement systems, and funding for the University of Louisiana at Lafayette; and

24 WHEREAS, developing a deep love and affection for horses and horse racing as a  
25 child, President Cortez has been a champion for Louisiana horsemen and the industry as a  
26 whole; he is the recipient of numerous awards and accolades such as the Louisiana  
27 Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association's Triple Crown Award, the Gold  
28 Standard Award, the Lifetime Achievement Award, and the first ever inductee into the  
29 Louisiana Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association's Hall of Fame, as well as  
30 having a stakes race at the Fairgrounds named in his honor; and

1           WHEREAS, Senator Cortez does not miss an opportunity to attend the Kentucky  
2 Derby and attends as many races around the country as his schedule will allow, and he  
3 currently owns a thoroughbred named My Sweet Sophia; and

4           WHEREAS, Senator Cortez has been the recipient of numerous tributes in  
5 recognition of his legislative service and was especially honored to receive the "LegisGator  
6 of the Year" award for 2022 from the Southwest Louisiana Chamber of Commerce; and

7           WHEREAS, many civic and nonprofit agencies have also benefitted from his  
8 expertise and active participation including the Association of Educators of Louisiana,  
9 American Legislative Exchange Council, Broussard Chamber of Commerce, Youngsville  
10 Chamber of Commerce, Our Lady of Fatima School Board, Lafayette Parks and Recreation  
11 Commission, Acadiana Outreach, Boys and Girls Club, Mile Perret-Games of Acadiana,  
12 Louisiana High School Coaches' Association, and the Breast Cancer of Acadiana  
13 Foundation; and

14           WHEREAS, although the intense demands of public life and civic duty draw heavily  
15 upon his time and keep him quite busy, his first concern is always his close-knit family, his  
16 wife of thirty-eight years, Angela Stoma Cortez, and their two treasured children, son,  
17 Matthew, and Matthew's wife, Jessica, and daughter, Maria, and Maria's husband, Eric, as  
18 well as his precious granddaughters, Sophia and Emma; and

19           WHEREAS, he and his family operate two retail furniture stores in Lafayette and  
20 Senator Cortez often says that, "It is the hard work done by my family back home that allows  
21 me the time to serve"; and

22           WHEREAS, Senator Cortez also credits his legislative success to his loyal and  
23 trusted legislative assistant Julie Sandridge who has taken care of their constituents for  
24 sixteen years; and

25           WHEREAS, Senator Cortez enjoys learning the French language almost as much as  
26 he enjoys French wine; he is a true Oenophile; and

27           WHEREAS, President Cortez is an aficionado of all types of music, can name a tune  
28 in one note, and often sings the song as well; he plays the guitar and was in the bands  
29 Guidostock and the Page Cortez Band, aka Too Many Guitars, where they played for various  
30 fundraising charities; he also played with the band Bayou Roux at the Rendezvous Music

