HLS 23RS-3888 ORIGINAL

2023 Regular Session

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 258

BY REPRESENTATIVES MARCELLE AND CARPENTER

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Cory Stewart for his service to the Louisiana legislature

A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Cory Stewart for his service to the Legislature of Louisiana. 3 WHEREAS, it is most fitting to recognize Cory Stewart, founding chief 4 communications officer of the Legislative Communications Office (LCO), and to commend 5 him on twenty-two years of dedicated service to the Legislature of Louisiana; and 6 WHEREAS, Cory has served under four governors, five Senate presidents, and six 7 House speakers; he has held numerous titles and positions ranging from student messenger 8 to his recent, unprecedented role as chief communications officer of the LCO; and 9 WHEREAS, Mr. Stewart began his career in 2001 as a high school senior working 10 as a student messenger with the Louisiana House of Representatives; he has maintained the 11 same professionalism that was evident in his early years as a student worker, and he has 12 consistently operated with a work ethic that highlights his aspirations for personal 13 excellence; and 14 WHEREAS, Mr. Stewart left the messenger room in 2003 to become a student 15 employee in the office of the clerk under then-Clerk of the House Alfred W. Speer; during 16 the next legislative session, he was placed at the front desk as an endorsement clerk; and 17 WHEREAS, Cory began work as a student intern in the Office of Public Information 18 in 2005 and helped update the office with new technologies, including graphic design programs, while also introducing social media to the legislature; later that year, he was hired 19 20 as the assistant press secretary for Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco; and

1	WHEREAS, Cory graduated from Southern University and A&M College in Baton
2	Rouge with a bachelor of arts degree in mass communications and public relations, and at
3	the request of Speaker Joe R. Salter, he returned to the capitol in 2006 to work as a public
4	information specialist in the Public Information Office; and
5	WHEREAS, in 2009, Mr. Stewart introduced the first-ever, in-house direct mail
6	marketing service; with this service, he provided mailer design services to state
7	representatives and produced a savings of \$1.2 million to the state's budget; and
8	WHEREAS, Mr. Stewart was selected chair of the Legislative Information and
9	Communications Staff Section of the National Conference of State Legislatures in 2012; he
10	was the first African American to serve in this role; in the same year, he was also promoted
11	to the position of deputy director of communications and led the rebranding effort of the
12	office by vastly expanding its services to include web development and streaming oversight;
13	and
14	WHEREAS, in 2015, Mr. Stewart became the first African American to serve as the
15	director of the House Communications Office; and
16	WHEREAS, Cory has also received numerous awards and accolades for his
17	astonishing career and achievements; in 2014, he was awarded the National Legislative Staff
18	Achievement Award, and in 2018, he was awarded the Communicator of the Year Award
19	from the National Association of Government Communicators; and
20	WHEREAS, one of Cory's most recent achievements came in 2021, when he was
21	asked to create, brand, and lead a new type of joint non-partisan office that offers
22	communication services to both the House of Representatives and the Senate; he branded
23	this new office the "Legislative Communications Office", or "LCO", and it represents the
24	first communications office in the country that supports the entire state legislative branch;
25	and
26	WHEREAS, behind Mr. Stewart's very capable leadership, the LCO created a new
27	website for the Senate, implemented two new legislative mobile applications, revamped the
28	marketing campaign for the Louisiana capitol's "Shop at the Top", redesigned the popular
29	coloring and activity book, and expanded the digital footprint of the legislature through
30	social media and web development; and

- 1 WHEREAS, Cory Stewart was an exemplary member of the legislative staff, and he
- 2 is most deserving of the highest recognition for his inspiring work, infectious smile, angelic
- 3 voice, and vibrant spirit.
- 4 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
- 5 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Cory Stewart for his service to the Louisiana
- 6 Legislature and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that he continue to prosper in all of his
- 7 endeavors as he begins a new phase in his career.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 258 Original

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Marcelle

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