

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1

BY REPRESENTATIVES BEAULLIEU AND DEVILLIER

A RESOLUTION

To commend Patricia Lowrey-Dufour upon her retirement as the senior legislative analyst for the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs with House Legislative Services.

WHEREAS, in September of 2024, Patricia Lowrey-Dufour retired as the senior legislative analyst for the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs with House Legislative Services (HLS), and it is appropriate to commend her for nearly four decades of excellence in public service; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Joe and Mary Vernon Lowrey and a native of Sabine Parish, Trish was valedictorian of her class at Many High School and is a proud alumna of Louisiana State University; and

WHEREAS, it was in 1985, while still a college student, when Trish began her long and highly productive career as a legislative staffer, serving as a legislative aide in the Senate and working in the legislative bureau; she also staffed Governor Buddy Roemer's transition team while she was a student and later served as the intern for the Governmental Affairs Division of HLS; she then served as a redistricting assistant in the office of former HLS Director (and House Clerk) David R. Poynter before returning to what became her longtime home on the seventh floor of the capitol as a full-time analyst with the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs; and

WHEREAS, under the House rules, the subject matter assigned to this committee covers a tremendous amount of ground and requires an expansive depth and breadth of knowledge – civil service, elections, governmental ethics, the apportionment of elected officials and governing bodies, the creation of all legislative committees, the affairs of the

House, legislative rules and procedures, expenditures of funds by the legislature, governmental reorganization, intergovernmental relations between the state and the United States or other states, the capitol building and other capitol complex buildings, and employees of the House, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, in part due to the committee's subject matter jurisdiction, and particularly in terms of redistricting, Trish worked more closely with each individual member than perhaps any other staffer; she had an encyclopedic knowledge of House districts and the communities that members represent; she drew the maps, and she knew the boundaries, the precincts, and the unique characteristics of constituents; at times she seemed to know every back road of every parish, having either traveled there on the job or painstakingly placed each one on a district map; this takes more than cartography skills – it is complex and nuanced, both legally and politically, and she artfully and capably handled these challenges every redistricting season for decades; and

WHEREAS, there are words used to describe people like "unique" and "singular" but seldom has there been a person who embodies this sentiment more fully than Trish – she simply is one of a kind – and it is nearly impossible to conceive of the state capitol without her deep well of knowledge and her steady and steady presence; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her superb service to legislators, Trish served as a mentor to other House staffers and as the exemplar of excellence in legislative staffing; she demonstrated all of the ideals for which House staffers strive: she had a deep appreciation for the principle of representative democracy; she was committed to maintaining the strength of the legislature as a co-equal branch of government; she set the highest standard of conduct in her objectivity; she met the most pressure-filled moments with unfailing calmness and kindness; and echoing through the halls of every floor of the capitol when the most obscure question was raised was the eternal refrain, "Let's ask Trish"; and

WHEREAS, one of Trish's most important roles was her service as the holder of the institutional memory of the House, having served under Speakers Dimos, Alario, Downer, DeWitt, Salter, Tucker, Kleckley, Barras, Schexnayder, and DeVillier; she witnessed and played a role in untold moments of great significance in the history of this state; her memory was the ultimate resource not only for how things were done, but why; and

WHEREAS, throughout the course of her long career, Trish had many offers and invitations to pursue other ventures, but she remained loyal and faithful to the "People's House" because she believed in it; she stood by it through the best and the most challenging of times; members may have stood in the spotlight, but often they did so on a foundation that she helped to lay for them with her guidance and expertise and by always telling them the truth; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her many professional achievements inside this building, Trish is devoted to her loving circle of family and friends, and it is the hope of the members that she is enjoying the freedom granted by retirement to gather with them, to wander through the farmer's market, to play with her granddaughter Zeaux, to celebrate family birthdays and other important milestones, to ride her bike, to cheer on her favorite teams, to practice yoga and tai chi, to advocate for causes close to her heart, and to cultivate her beloved garden; and

WHEREAS, Trish's former division director, E. Anne Dunn, captures the essence of her public service with these words: "The retirement of Patricia Lowrey-Dufour from the staff of the House of Representatives is a milestone in the history of the institution. Her departure will be a significant loss to the House, the legislature, and the people of Louisiana. For so many years she has been a true mainstay in developing and formulating policy in a wide range of areas, while being the go-to person for information about and improvement in the legislative process"; and

WHEREAS, Patricia Lowrey-Dufour's contributions to the Louisiana Legislature cannot be overstated, and she is recognized by every member and staffer for the special place she occupies in the chronicles of the history of the state; and

WHEREAS, it is impossible to capture all that Trish means to this body in one document, but House members hope that this serves as a record of profound admiration, appreciation, and respect for someone who is truly a once-in-a-generation talent; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting to take proper notice of Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, an extraordinary public servant, and to express the pride of the people of the state in this most distinguished daughter of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Patricia Lowrey-Dufour for nearly four

decades of dedicated and incredibly effective service upon her retirement as the senior legislative analyst for the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs with House Legislative Services; does hereby record how she set the ultimate standard in legislative staffing as a public servant; and does hereby express to her enduring appreciation for the pride, honor, and joy she will forever bring to the House, to the legislature, and to the state of Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES