

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 69

BY SENATOR HENRY

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Honorable Cleo Fields for his exemplary service to the state of Louisiana during his many years at the Legislature of Louisiana and to congratulate him on his election to the House of Representatives of the United States Congress.

WHEREAS, Cleo Fields, a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was born on November 22, 1962, and rose from humble beginnings to become a prominent figure in Louisiana and national politics; and

WHEREAS, Cleo Fields experienced the tragic loss of his father at the age of four and was raised by his mother, Alice Fields, who supported ten children by working tirelessly as a maid and laundress, and instilling in him the values of perseverance, hard work, and service; and

WHEREAS, a proud graduate of McKinley High School in 1980, Cleo Fields earned a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications from Southern University and A&M College in 1984, and distinguished himself by obtaining his Juris Doctorate in 1987 from the Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, at the age of twenty-four, he achieved an extraordinary political milestone by being elected as a state senator, thereby establishing an unprecedented record as the youngest individual ever elected to the Louisiana State Senate in the state's history, and concurrently emerging as the youngest legislator in the entire nation at the time; and

WHEREAS, during his early years in the legislature, Senator Cleo Fields focused on key issues such as education, drug prevention, minority job creation, and environmental protection; establishing himself as a champion for the underrepresented; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, at age 29, he was elected to the 103rd United States Congress House of Representatives by the constituents of Louisiana's 4th Congressional District, securing over 70% of the vote in a district stretching across a geographical jurisdiction from Shreveport, Louisiana, to the capital of Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, his legislative efficacy was further substantiated by his remarkable congressional achievement of authoring and successfully enacting more than thirty substantive and consequential pieces of federal legislation, demonstrating his political acumen and legislative proficiency; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, this distinguished legislator, driven by his steadfast commitment to empowering and inspiring elementary and secondary school-aged learners, pioneered the Congressional Classroom, the first of its kind in the country, designed to cultivate essential leadership skills and bolster self-esteem, all while fostering a deep understanding of governmental processes; the program evolved into the esteemed Louisiana Leadership Institute; and

WHEREAS, his commitment to youth development through the Louisiana Leadership Institute has impacted thousands of lives through education, arts, culture, and mentorship, making him a transformative force in Louisiana's civic and educational landscape; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, he etched an indelible historical milestone by courageously mounting a gubernatorial campaign for Louisiana, and becoming the first African American candidate to advance to a runoff election since the Reconstruction era; and

WHEREAS, after his tenure in the United States Congress House of Representatives, Cleo Fields resumed service in the Louisiana State Senate in 1997 and served multiple terms, and in 2019, became the first person in Louisiana history to return to the senate for a third time; and

WHEREAS, throughout his decades of service, Senator Fields held numerous leadership roles in the Louisiana Senate including Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, Chair of the Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs, Chair of the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs, and Vice Chair of the Judiciary A Committee; and

WHEREAS, he served as a member on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and International Affairs, once; Senate Committee on Education, three times; Senate Committee on Finance, twice; Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, once; Senate Committee on Judiciary A, six times; Senate Committee on Judiciary C, once; Senate

Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, twice; Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs, three times; Senate Committee on Retirement, twice; and Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs, four times; and

WHEREAS, Senator Fields served on the Senate Select Committee on Tax Structures; the Senate Select Committee on Disaster Planning, Crisis Management, Recovery and Long-Term Revitalization; the Senate Select Committee on State Police Oversight; and the Senate Select Committee on Homeland Security, twice; and

WHEREAS, Senator Fields also served as a member of the Legislative Budgetary Control Council, twice; the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay; and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget; and

WHEREAS, Senator Fields' enduring commitment to service, justice, and empowerment stands as a testament to his remarkable legacy and the positive change one individual can bring to their community and state; and

WHEREAS, Cleo Fields is the devoted husband of Debra Fields; the loving father of their sons, Brandon and Christopher; and a longtime member of Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Honorable Cleo Fields for his exemplary service to the state of Louisiana during his many years at the Legislature of Louisiana and to congratulate him on his election to the House of Representatives of the United States Congress.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Cleo Fields.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE