

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEBAS

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Joseph Sonnier upon his journey from custodian, to teacher, to principal at Port Barre High School and upon his outstanding achievements and contributions

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Joseph Sonnier, principal of Port Barre Elementary School, for his
3 extraordinary achievements and contributions.

4 WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend Joseph Sonnier, who was appointed
5 principal of Port Barre Elementary School in November of 2013 after more than thirty years
6 of service at the school and to recognize his outstanding accomplishments and contributions
7 to his students, school, and community; and

8 WHEREAS, a native of Leonville, Louisiana, Joseph Sonnier attended Southern
9 University for two semesters, studying electrical engineering, before he began his career at
10 Port Barre Elementary School as a custodian in 1981; and

11 WHEREAS, nineteen years later, while still working in this position, Mr. Sonnier
12 returned to college part time, studying education at Louisiana State University at Eunice,
13 where he earned an associate degree in 2006; and

14 WHEREAS, two years later, Mr. Sonnier, while balancing his continuing studies and
15 his custodial duties as Port Barre's beloved "Mr. Gabe", earned a bachelor's degree in
16 elementary education from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL); and

17 WHEREAS, after his graduation from ULL, Mr. Sonnier transitioned from his
18 longtime custodial position to the classroom, where he taught third grade math, science, and
19 social studies until 2011, when he became an all-around fourth grade teacher; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Sonnier pursued graduate studies while teaching and received a
2 master's degree in educational leadership from Arkansas State University in 2012; and

3 WHEREAS, in November of 2013, more than thirty years after joining the school
4 family as a custodian, Joseph Sonnier was appointed principal of Port Barre Elementary
5 School, and today he leads the school with great effectiveness and distinction; and

6 WHEREAS, in addition to the different hats he has worn at school, Mr. Sonnier has
7 long been an active and vital member of his community, directing baseball and softball for
8 Opelousas Parks and Recreation, officiating high school and college basketball, and
9 coaching high school baseball and softball, and he and his wife, Felicia, are the proud
10 parents of two sons, Sean and Maurice Sonnier; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Sonnier has earned the utmost admiration and respect of his fellow
12 educators, who hold him in the highest regard for his steadfast commitment to excellence
13 and for his unique ability to motivate students to succeed by setting a shining example of all
14 that is possible through determination and hard work; and

15 WHEREAS, Joseph Sonnier merits a special measure of commendation for the noble
16 and exemplary strides he has taken in the molding of young minds and for the tremendous
17 joy and pride that he brings to his family and friends, to his students and colleagues at Port
18 Barre Elementary School, to St. Landry Parish, and to the state of Louisiana.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
20 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Joseph Sonnier; does hereby recognize and
21 record for posterity his extraordinary achievements in education and his singular
22 contributions to Port Barre Elementary School over more than three decades of dedicated
23 service, first as a custodian, then as a teacher, and finally as principal; and does hereby
24 extend to him best wishes for continued success and happiness in the future.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
26 to Joseph Sonnier.

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)]

LeBas

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