

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 229

BY REPRESENTATIVE ST. GERMAIN

WATERWAYS: Urges and requests the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to name the entrance to Buffalo Cove in the Atchafalaya Basin as Skerrett Point

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the United States Board on Geographic Names to name the entrance of
3 Buffalo Cove in the Atchafalaya Basin as Skerrett Point and to authorize and request
4 the Department of Transportation and Development and the Department of Natural
5 Resources to take any action necessary to propose this commemorative name
6 proposal to the United States Board on Geographic Names.

7 WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya Basin is America's largest river swamp at one hundred
8 miles long and covers approximately eight hundred thousand acres; and

9 WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya is home to over one hundred different species of fish
10 and aquatic life, sixty-five species of reptiles and amphibians, and two hundred fifty known
11 species of birds, as well as the largest crop of wild crawfish in the world; and

WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya contains the largest continuous bottomland hardwood forest in the nation and is the only land-developing river delta in North America, which is only one of six in the world; and

15 WHEREAS, the value of the basin's fish, wildlife, and related recreational resources
16 has been estimated at over one hundred million dollars annually and the value of the oil and
17 gas, timber, and shipping is equal to that figure; and

18 WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya is an important floodway, carrying one-third of the
19 waters of the Mississippi River, beginning below Natchez, safely to the Gulf of Mexico,
20 protecting the cities of Baton Rouge and New Orleans from potential flooding; and

1 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana, working with several federal agencies, began
2 efforts in the 1970's to enhance and promote the Atchafalaya, and those efforts have
3 continued until the present day; and

4 WHEREAS, one of the areas selected for project enhancement by the state of
5 Louisiana and the United States Army Corps of Engineers was Buffalo Cove; and

6 WHEREAS, B. E. M. "Ben" Skerret, III, Lafayette businessman, avid sportsman,
7 an original member of Governor W. Fox McKeithen's 1971 Governor's Commission on the
8 Atchafalaya Basin, and icon in the decades-long effort to preserve the basin, was
9 instrumental in the selection of Buffalo Cove as a project site; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Skerrett was cited as a recipient of the 42nd Governor's State
11 Conservation Achievement Award for his passion to preserve the Atchafalaya Basin, and
12 particularly, his efforts to implement the Buffalo Cove Water Management Unit as a means
13 of restoring the water quality and productivity to that popular basin fishing ground; and

14 WHEREAS, the groundbreaking for the Buffalo Cove project was December 2,
15 2005, only a few short weeks after his death.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
17 urge and request the United States Board on Geographic Names to name the entrance of
18 Buffalo Cove in the Atchafalaya Basin as Skerrett Point and to authorize and request the
19 Department of Transportation and Development and the Department of Natural Resources
20 to take any action necessary to propose this commemorative name proposal to the United
21 States Board on Geographic Names.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
23 to the executive secretary of the United States Board on Geographic Names and the
24 secretaries of the Department of Transportation and Development and the Department of
25 Natural Resources.

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)]

HCR 229 Original

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St. Germain

Urges and requests the United States Board on Geographic Names to name the entrance of Buffalo Cove in the Atchafalaya Basin as Skerrett Point and authorizes and requests the Department of Transportation and Development and the Department of Natural Resources to take any action necessary to propose this commemorative name proposal to the United States Board on Geographic Names.