

First Extraordinary Session, 2006

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

BY REPRESENTATIVES JOHNS, ALARIO, ALEXANDER, ANSARDI, ARNOLD, BADON, BALDONE, BARROW, BAUDOIN, BAYLOR, BEARD, BOWLER, BRUCE, BRUNEAU, BURNS, BURRELL, K. CARTER, R. CARTER, CAZAYOUX, CRANE, CRAVINS, CROWE, CURTIS, DAMICO, DANIEL, DEWITT, DOERGE, DORSEY, DOVE, DURAND, FANNIN, FARRAR, FAUCHEUX, FRITH, GALLOT, GEYMANN, GRAY, GREENE, E. GUILLORY, M. GUILLORY, HAMMETT, HARRIS, HEATON, HONEY, HUTTER, KATZ, KENNARD, KENNEY, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LANCASTER, MARTINY, MCDONALD, MCVEA, MONTGOMERY, MORRISH, ODINET, PIERRE, PINAC, PITRE, M. POWELL, T. POWELL, QUEZAIRE, RICHMOND, RITCHIE, ROMERO, SALTER, SCHNEIDER, SMILEY, GARY SMITH, JANE SMITH, JOHN SMITH, STRAIN, THOMPSON, TOOMY, TRAHAN, TRICHE, TUCKER, WADDELL, WALKER, WALSWORTH, WHITE, WINSTON, AND WOOTON AND SENATORS ADLEY, AMEDEE, BAJOIE, BARHAM, BOASSO, BROOME, CAIN, CHAISSON, CHEEK, CRAVINS, DARDENNE, DUPLESSIS, DUPRE, ELLINGTON, FIELDS, FONTENOT, B. GAUTREAUX, N. GAUTREAUX, HEITMEIER, HINES, HOLLIS, JACKSON, JONES, KOSTELKA, LENTINI, MALONE, MARIONNEAUX, MCPHERSON, MICHOT, MOUNT, MURRAY, NEVERS, QUINN, ROMERO, SCHEDLER, SHEPHERD, SMITH, THEUNISSEN, AND ULLO

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend former House Speaker E.L. "Bubba" Henry upon the celebration of his seventieth birthday and to express enduring gratitude for his outstanding contributions to the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, on the memorable occasion of his seventieth birthday, it is appropriate that sincere and heartfelt congratulations be extended to E.L. "Bubba" Henry as his lifetime of achievements is commended; and

WHEREAS, it was a day of great celebration on February 10, 1936, in Jonesboro when E.L. "Bubba" Henry took his first breath as a legendary Louisianian; there was no crib in the Hodge Clinic, he slept in the drawer of a chest; and

WHEREAS, a 1958 graduate of Baylor University, Mr. Henry received his law degree at the Louisiana State University School of Law in 1961, instantly upping the level of classiness collectively displayed by practitioners of the legal profession in the state; and

WHEREAS, Bubba Henry is held in the highest esteem as a former public servant whose excellence as a state representative merited his consistent reelection to office over

twelve years, from 1968 until 1980, during which time he fully used every opportunity to serve the citizens of his district and Louisiana in an honorable and dedicated manner; and

WHEREAS, after beginning his first term in the House of Representatives, Bubba Henry soon became a force to be reckoned with in the legislature and a bona fide trailblazer as he embarked on a path of reform that would ultimately prove to revolutionize the House; and

WHEREAS, there are few public officials in the history of the state who have been so instrumental in bringing about positive change in state government as Bubba Henry, and in 1972, he was elected by his peers as Speaker of the House, a role in which he distinguished himself not only by being the first Speaker to succeed himself in modern history but also by effecting sweeping changes in the House that undeniably improved and strengthened the body; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henry was the leader of a group of legislators known as the "Young Turks" who were unwaveringly determined to rid the legislature of its antiquated ways and to bring it into the twentieth century and who were dubbed as such by a reporter in reference to the leaders of a Turkish revolt who reformed the Ottoman Empire; and

WHEREAS, some of the reforms instituted under Mr. Henry's capable leadership were the granting of interim authority to standing committees; the abolishment of special interim committees; the establishment of pre-session filing and pre-session hearing of legislation; the improvement of staff, including providing committee staff, the legislative fiscal office, and actuarial staff; the establishment of improved committee facilities; the preparation of fiscal and actuarial notes; the publishing of committee schedules and agendas; the institution of more extensive floor debate; the abolition of the round robin; the setting of requirements for the appointment of conference committees; the registration of lobbyists; and the restriction of access to the House floor; all of these changes had a highly significant impact on the efficiency and integrity of House procedure and the legislative process, and the importance of their institution in making the House the strong and independent body it is today cannot be overstated; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henry was also elected by his fellow delegates to serve as chairman of the 1973-74 Louisiana Constitutional Convention, and he did so with great effectiveness,

contributing significantly to constitutional revision efforts that greatly furthered the authority of the legislature as a coequal branch of government; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henry's leadership secrets for building consensus during the Constitutional Convention were in great demand, and he toured the nation advising his colleagues in many of Louisiana's sister states on the intricacies of the constitutional process; and

WHEREAS, in the mid-1970s, the most prestigious award ever received by the Louisiana House of Representatives was given by the Citizens Conference on State Legislatures, which acknowledged it as the most improved legislative house in the country, an award received due primarily to the major and unprecedented improvements that Mr. Henry ably and tirelessly initiated or fostered as Speaker of the House, and it is a testament to him as well and his tenacious and exemplary leadership that the House received such positive national recognition, besting every other legislative house in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henry was recognized for his exemplary leadership by President Gerald Ford in an Oval Office ceremony in the spring of 1974 as the only Louisianian to be so honored; and

WHEREAS, as a House member and then as House Speaker, Mr. Henry was a true champion of the legislative institution and its absolute independence, and his unflagging belief in its potential as a coequal branch of government inspired his fellow legislators to fight to make it so; and

WHEREAS, when Mr. Henry left the House in 1978, it was widely recognized that there had never been a Speaker quite like him and that all future Speakers might look to him as an example of how to always act honestly upon one's convictions with fortitude and courage regardless of controversy or opposition to change; and

WHEREAS, after he left the legislature, Mr. Henry defected to the executive branch, as everyone knew it could stand to be improved by someone as experienced with reform as he, continuing his dedicated and highly effective service to the state by serving with distinction as commissioner of administration from 1980 until 1984 and being responsible for the daily operation and management of state government, always displaying thoughtfulness and keen insight in this challenging position; and

WHEREAS, as commissioner of administration, Mr. Henry had the inspiration for and prepared the plans and blueprints for what was to become the State Capitol Complex and the consolidation of state offices in the Capitol environs, and he advocated and pushed through comprehensive reform of state procurement and selection procedures; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henry now demonstrates his remarkable knowledge of state government as special counsel with Adams and Reese LLP, is considered one of the state's most respected, influential, and successful lobbyists, and is still held in the highest regard by legislators even though he now works on the other side of the velvet rope; and

WHEREAS, Bubba Henry has served on the board of directors of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, is Adams and Reese's voting member and past chair of the State Capitol Law Firm Group, and lends his talents to a variety of professional and civic organizations, such as the Council for a Better Louisiana, the Public Affairs Research Council, the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, and others; and

WHEREAS, Bubba Henry lives his life based on his faith in his Creator and manifests his faith in part through his devotion to University Baptist Church in multiple roles, including teaching Sunday school to young adults for many years; and

WHEREAS, in a fitting tribute to his singular contributions as a longtime public servant, the Autumn 2001 edition of *Louisiana Life* magazine listed Mr. Henry as one of the twenty people who had most influenced public policy in Louisiana during the past twenty years; and

WHEREAS, no homage to Bubba Henry is complete without mention of his incomparable sense of humor and his brilliant employment of said humor, his charming wit, and his hardscrabble smarts, once as a legislator and now as a lobbyist, in order to convince people to do what they thought they did not want to do and to realize that he was actually right all along; and

WHEREAS, the voice of Bubba Henry in House debate will long be remembered as a voice of change and voice of hope, and he has been recorded in the annals of the history of the legislative body as one of the truest statesmen ever to serve in the House chamber; and

WHEREAS, the members of the legislature who were fortunate enough to serve with Mr. Henry continue to rely on him for his wisdom and friendship, the state of Louisiana will

long reap the benefits of his profoundly significant legacy, and his fellow citizens recognize that he is a unique living symbol of the legislature; and

WHEREAS, seldom has there been a member of the legislature who has earned the reputation for integrity that is enjoyed by Bubba Henry, who is known as a man of his word and a man who has accomplished much by the sheer force of his own personal intelligence, strength, and credibility and as a legislator as devoted to the Louisiana House of Representatives and the legislature as any who has ever served or ever will serve; and

WHEREAS, Bubba Henry, a most distinguished and beloved son of Louisiana and a humble country lawyer, merits a sincere measure of commendation for his singular contributions and his exemplary accomplishments as he is lauded and recognized on the historic celebration of the seven extraordinary decades during which he has graced Louisiana and the world with his presence, unforgettable and one-of-a-kind.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Legislature of Louisiana do hereby commend their friend E.L. "Bubba" Henry upon the celebration of his seventieth birthday, do hereby recognize that he exemplifies all that is good about Louisiana, do hereby record the extraordinary life he has lived in the seventy years since that fateful tenth day of February in the year nineteen hundred and thirty-six, do hereby extend enduring gratitude for the unparalleled contributions he has made to the state of Louisiana, and do hereby wish him full measures of success and happiness as he continues to play a major and standing ovation-worthy role on the stage of good government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to E.L. "Bubba" Henry, proud septuagenarian.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE