

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 196

BY REPRESENTATIVE ST. GERMAIN AND SENATOR MCPHERSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend John E. Roussel on the occasion of his retirement from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, office of fisheries, and to express the appreciation of the Louisiana Legislature for his many years of services to the state of Louisiana, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and to the Louisiana Legislature.

WHEREAS, John E. Roussel has decided to retire from his state service effective the end of July 2011, causing the state to lose one of its best and most devoted state employees who has been of great service to not only the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries but also to the recreational and commercial fishing communities all over the state and to the legislature as a sage and measured advisor in its deliberations on fisheries issues; and

WHEREAS, after receiving his undergraduate degree in Marine Biology from Nicholls State University in Thibodaux in 1977, and his Master of Science degree in Fisheries Biology from Tennessee Tech in Cookeville, Tennessee, in 1979, where his thesis was "Habitat selection, food habits and gonadal development of adult black bass in Center Hill Reservoir, Tennessee", Mr. Roussel joined the staff of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in November 1979; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roussel launched his career as a biologist in the office of fisheries of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries where he held many professional biologist positions in that office including, at various times in his career, working with the shrimp section, the oyster section, and the crab section, all of which were integral to his years of work in the Barataria Bay watershed; and

WHEREAS, while in the office of fisheries, Mr. Roussel founded the saltwater finfish section to enable more focus on management of the marine finfish in Louisiana inshore and outside waters; and

WHEREAS, while on the staff at the office of fisheries of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Mr. Roussel served as a delegate to and later as a board member for the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roussel has served in several management positions within the office of fisheries including Biologist Division Administrator and Deputy Assistant Secretary, culminating with serving as assistant secretary for the office of fisheries for ten years from 1996 through 2006, serving as the head of the office of fisheries under the administrations of four different secretaries and three different governors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roussel, in his many different positions in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, spent many years as a incomparable and valuable resource to the members of this legislature as they struggled to develop appropriate legislative input and responses to the continuing user conflicts faced throughout the state wherever the citizens of this state engage in fishing activities, whether those activities are for commercial purposes or not; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roussel more often than not provided a measured assessment of a situation and offered reasonable, responsible, and defensible alternatives which, while possibly not to the liking of everyone involved, were equitable and fair, demonstrating sound judgment in support of his responsibilities for management of fish as a valuable resource for all citizens of the state; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roussel was frequently called upon to intercede in differences not only between various factions of the fishing community, but also in differences in perspectives among many different industries that were trying to coexist, particularly in the coastal areas of the state, including the commercial and recreational fishing industries, oil and gas industries, and coastal restoration efforts, situations where, once again, he was always viewed as the mediator and reasonable voice and where he was often the source of resolutions and compromises; and

WHEREAS, as he leaves his state service, the state will be left with a loss because John Roussel will be missed greatly for the history and knowledge he brought to his every effort, his ability to bring together disparate viewpoints for a common purpose, for his measured evaluations and reasonable proposals and solutions, and his overall dedication to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the state as a whole, and particularly, for his total willingness to work with and advise the legislature in their deliberations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend John E. Roussel on the occasion of his retirement from the Department of Wildlife

and Fisheries, office of fisheries, and to express the appreciation of the Louisiana Legislature for his many years of services to the state of Louisiana, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and to the Louisiana Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to John E. Roussel.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE