

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 199

BY SENATORS ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PETERSON, PRICE, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Honorable Francis C. Thompson on forty-five years of distinguished public service in the Legislature of Louisiana and to express enduring gratitude for his outstanding contributions made on behalf of the constituents of the parishes of Concordia, East Carroll, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, West Carroll, and the state of Louisiana, particularly during his tenure as a distinguished member of the Louisiana Senate representing District No. 34 and the Louisiana House of Representatives representing District No. 19.

WHEREAS, Francis C. Thompson is a public servant whose excellence as a state legislator has merited his consistent reelection to office since 1975, during which time he has fully used every opportunity to serve the citizens of his district and the state in an honorable and dedicated manner; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Northeast Louisiana and graduate of Delhi High School, Senator Thompson received a bachelor of science degree and a master of science degree from Louisiana Tech University and a Doctorate of Education from the University of Louisiana at Monroe; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thompson's professional experience includes serving as a drug education coordinator with the state Department of Education, an assistant professor at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, vice president of Delhi Manufacturing Corporation, owner of Richland Auto Supply, member of the board of directors of the Madison Bank and Trust, and numerous successful agri-business and real estate ventures; and

WHEREAS, his professional, civic, and business affiliations have included the Delhi Lions Club, the Delhi Masonic Lodge Number 120, the Northeast Louisiana Livestock Show, Phi Delta Kappa Honorary Fraternity, the Richland Parish Farm Bureau Federation, and the Delhi Jaycees; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thompson's extensive public service experience includes serving on the Richland Parish Library Board, the Richland Parish School Board, the Louisiana State Library Board, the Executive Committee of the Southern Regional Education Board, the Education Commission of the States, the State Mental Health Drug Advisory Council, the State Agriculture and Rural Leaders Board, the American Legislative Exchange Council, and the Energy Council; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thompson has been a proud member of the Democratic Caucus, past chairman of the Louisiana Rural Caucus, and currently serves as chairman of the Northeast Louisiana Legislative Delegation; and

WHEREAS, from 1975 until 2008, Francis C. Thompson represented District No. 19 in the Louisiana House of Representatives and served with great diligence as chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development, the House Special Committee on Homeland Security, and the Legislative Audit Advisory Council, as well as serving as a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, the House Committee on Education, the House Committee on Enrollment, the House Executive Committee, the House Committee on Health and Welfare, and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget; and

WHEREAS, since 2008, Francis C. Thompson has represented District No. 34 in the Louisiana Senate and garnered committee assignments as chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development, as well as serving as a member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs, the Senate Committee on Finance, the Senate Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, the Senate Select Committee on Homeland Security, and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget; and

WHEREAS, as chairman of the House and Senate committees on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development for over twenty-eight years,

Senator Thompson provided highly effective leadership to the committees and the entire agriculture industry in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thompson is well-known to be the busiest man in the Louisiana State Capitol; he always takes time to speak, never meets a stranger, always encourages others in their Christian faith, and conducts himself as a true gentleman; and

WHEREAS, since his first term in 1975, Senator Thompson has served under seven different governors and filed an impressive count of one thousand fifty-eight bills and resolutions; and

WHEREAS, through his successful efforts to bring numerous industries to North Louisiana and his commitment to improve education, hospitals, agriculture, economic development, infrastructure, healthcare, law enforcement, and equal opportunities for all, the good works of Senator Thompson will be realized for future generations to come; and

WHEREAS, often described as the most tenacious legislator in the capitol, Senator Thompson never stops fighting for the people of his district and is known by most as the "go-to" legislator to get the job done; and

WHEREAS, he has been a fierce advocate on many important pieces of legislation related to rural and agricultural causes, landowners' rights, and education, including the creation of the Master Farmer program, the Delta Rural Initiative, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the Louisiana Broadband Advisory Council, and the Louisiana Rural Development Law; and

WHEREAS, during his time in Baton Rouge, Senator Thompson has been most proud of his role in securing a veteran's cemetery in his district, the construction of the Poverty Point Reservoir State Park, and the recognition of the Poverty Point Historical Site as a UNESCO World Heritage Site; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thompson has been the deserving recipient of numerous honors and awards throughout the course of his exemplary career, including his 2005 induction into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame, the Louisiana Family Forum Outstanding Family Advocate Award, the Friend of Tourism Award, the 100% Life Advocate Award, the Most Influential in Northeastern Louisiana Business Award, the Distinguished Service to North Louisiana Agriculture Award, the W.L. "Jack" Howard Public Service Award, and the

University of Louisiana at Monroe Lifetime Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, as he prepares for the next exciting and productive chapter of his life, Senator Thompson and his wife, Marilyn, celebrate fifty-six years of marriage, three children, eleven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren; they share their happiness in the company of close friends, colleagues, and their church family at Delhi Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thompson is a true Louisiana legend and dedicated public servant that deserves the highest commendation for his steadfast commitment to the people of his district and the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana hereby commends the Honorable Francis C. Thompson on forty-five years of distinguished public service in the Legislature of Louisiana and expresses enduring gratitude for his outstanding contributions made on behalf of the constituents of the parishes of Concordia, East Carroll, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, West Carroll, and the state of Louisiana, particularly during his tenure as a distinguished member of the Louisiana Senate representing District No. 34 and the Louisiana House of Representatives representing District No. 19.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana hereby expresses enduring gratitude to Senator Thompson for his service to the citizens of Louisiana, as evidenced by his superlative achievements as a member of the Legislature of Louisiana, hereby pays tribute to him for the effective way in which he has dedicated his intelligence and his energy to the service of his family, friends, community, and state, and hereby extends to him the best wishes of all of his colleagues for continued prosperity and success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Francis C. Thompson.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE