

Regular Session, 2008

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 40

BY REPRESENTATIVE TUCKER AND SENATORS CHAISSON, ADLEY, ALARIO, AMEDEE, BROOME, CASSIDY, CHEEK, CRAVINS, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY, DUPLESSIS, DUPRE, ERDEY, B. GAUTREAUX, N. GAUTREAUX, GRAY, HEBERT, HEITMEIER, JACKSON, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARIONNEAUX, MARTINY, MCPHERSON, MICHOT, MORRISH, MOUNT, MURRAY, NEVERS, QUINN, RISER, SCALISE, SHAW, SHEPHERD, SMITH, THOMPSON, AND WALSWORTH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the Honorable Pascal F. Calogero, Jr., as he prepares for his retirement as chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend Pascal F. Calogero, Jr., who will retire as chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court in December of 2008; and

WHEREAS, a native of New Orleans, Chief Justice Calogero received his Juris Doctor degree in 1954 from Loyola University School of Law, where he graduated first in his class, was president of the student editorial board of the Loyola Law Review, was the recipient of the Henry L. Sarpy Award for Excellence in Legal Practice, and represented the St. Thomas More Law Society in moot court competition; and

WHEREAS, prior to law school, Chief Justice Calogero attended Loyola University, where he concentrated on pre-legal studies; in 1992, almost four decades after receiving his law degree, he received a master of laws degree in judicial process from the University of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, from 1954 to 1957, Chief Justice Calogero served in the United States Army as a military police officer and then as an officer in the Judge Advocate General's Corps until separation from the Army with the rank of Captain; and

WHEREAS, Chief Justice Calogero served as a law clerk to the judges of civil district court in Orleans Parish prior to practicing law from 1958 to 1972; and

WHEREAS, Chief Justice Calogero has served on the Louisiana Supreme Court for more than thirty-five years, having been elected four times, the first time in 1972; he took his first oath as associate justice on January 10, 1973, to serve a two-year unexpired term;

he was reelected in 1974, 1988, and 1998 from the parishes of Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines; as an associate justice, he was a member of the Judicial Council and the Judicial Ethics Committee and also served as the state court representative for the National Center for State Courts, as chairman of the Supreme Court Budget Committee, and as chairman of the Judicial Budgetary Control Board; and

WHEREAS, as the senior member of the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Calogero was sworn in as chief justice on April 9, 1990, and as chief justice, he has spearheaded numerous reform initiatives in the area of the law, the legal system, and the administration of justice in Louisiana, many of which serve as national models for court improvement, including the creation of the Louisiana Indigent Defender Board, the establishment of the mandatory Interest on Lawyers' Trust Fund Account Program for the purpose of funding law-related programs benefitting the public and the legal system, the institution of a new lawyer disciplinary system based on the American Bar Association's Model Code, the bolstering of the judicial disciplinary system, the adoption of five-year strategic plans for the Supreme Court, courts of appeal, and trial courts, the adoption of a uniform pay plan for the state appellate courts, the establishment of the Supreme Court's Community Relations Department, and calling for reform of the state's juvenile justice system, which resulted in a historic collaboration of the three branches of government and an unprecedented overhaul of the system; and

WHEREAS, Chief Justice Calogero also stewarded the restoration of the Supreme Court's former courthouse and the return of the Supreme Court to 400 Royal Street in New Orleans; the Supreme Court moved to its newly restored quarters in May of 2004, and the courthouse was dedicated on October 2, 2004, in a formal ceremony where then-United States Supreme Court Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor served as the keynote speaker; and

WHEREAS, Chief Justice Calogero has judged law student moot court competitions on numerous occasions, authored articles in law reviews and legal periodicals, and lectured to law classes at the University of New Orleans, Harvard Law School, and Loyola School of Law; he has participated in more than six thousand oral arguments and published Supreme Court opinions and has authored more than one thousand majority opinions, concurrences, and dissents; for more than three decades, including since 1990 as chief justice, he has

played a significant role in the Supreme Court's consistently current docket, notwithstanding the tripling of annual court filings since 1973; and

WHEREAS, Chief Justice Calogero is the recipient of the Louisiana Bar Foundation's 1991 Distinguished Jurist Award as well as an honorary doctor of laws degree from Loyola University School of Law; he is an honorary member of the Louisiana State University Law Center's Order of the Coif and Hall of Fame; he was named the 1995 Distinguished National Jurist by the Indiana University School of Law in Indianapolis for his work in the area of indigent defense; he received the national 1995 Judge Bob Jones Memorial Award, which is presented annually to a judge by the American Judges Association for significant contributions to judicial education; in 1997, he received the Justice Albert Tate, Jr. Award from the Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; in 1999, he received the Outstanding Judicial Award from Victims and Citizens Against Crime, Inc.; in 2001, he was honored by the Loyola Law School Alumni Association in recognition of his distinguished career on the Supreme Court; in 2002, he received the distinguished Medal of Honor Award from the mayor of New Orleans; in 2005, he received the Beacon of Justice Award from the American Board of Trial Advocates' Southeast Chapter, recognizing him as jurist of the year; also in 2005, he was one of the first inductees into the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame by the Louisiana State Penitentiary Museum Foundation; in 2007, the American Judicature Society, a national nonpartisan organization dedicated to the effective administration of justice, awarded him the Fourth Annual Dwight D. Opperman Award for Judicial Excellence, which is presented annually to a state judge of a trial or appellate court who has had a career of distinguished judicial service; and he was named the 2007 Distinguished Jurist by the Pro Bono Project; and

WHEREAS, Chief Justice Calogero is the son of the late Pascal F. Calogero, a New Orleans police officer, and the late Louise Moore Calogero, is the husband of Leslie Langhettee, and is the father of ten children, Debbie Calogero Applebaum and David, Pascal III, Elizabeth, Thomas, Michael, Stephen, Gerald, Katie, and Chrissy Calogero; and

WHEREAS, Chief Justice Calogero will forever hold a special place in the chronicles of the history of Louisiana, for he is one of the state's most exceptional public servants and most gifted legal scholars; and

WHEREAS, Chief Justice Calogero will remain an inspiration to his fellow citizens for the vital contributions he has made in his career of highly effective public service, and he merits the highest commendation and most sincere congratulations for his exemplary term of service on the Louisiana Supreme Court and for his unforgettable contributions to the state, whose citizens will long reap the benefits of his incomparable legacy of integrity, leadership, and excellence.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Honorable Pascal F. Calogero, Jr., as he prepares for his retirement as chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, does hereby recognize and record for posterity his accomplishments and the historic strides he has taken during more than three decades of dignified and highly productive service on the state's highest court, including eighteen years as chief justice, does hereby express to him the enduring appreciation of the state's citizens, and does hereby extend to him, with the utmost respect and admiration, best wishes for full measures of success and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE