

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY SENATOR MICHOT

A RESOLUTION

To commend Dr. Ray P. Authement for his contributions to Acadiana and its people on Acadiana Red & White Day at the Louisiana State Capitol and to acknowledge and commemorate his many years of outstanding service to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

WHEREAS, Dr. Authement arrived at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) in 1947 as a student majoring in physics and minoring in mathematics; and

WHEREAS, later in his career, Dr. Authement returned to ULL as a faculty member and taught mathematics for nine years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Authement remained at ULL and served in its administration for the next forty-two years as academic vice president, university vice president, acting university president, and currently as the university's fifth president; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Authement has held the title of president of ULL for thirty-four years, making him the longest sitting president of any public university in the United States; and

WHEREAS, during Dr. Authement's presidency, ULL has become the state's second largest public university, has grown into the largest university in the University of Louisiana system, and has earned national prominence in the areas of computer science, environmental biology, and nursing; and

WHEREAS, as university president, Dr. Authement has been highly committed to research and graduate studies at ULL, guiding the university to become Louisiana's first Doctoral II institution and to be recognized as a university with "high research activity" by the Carnegie Foundation, a prestigious classification that has also been granted to Clemson, Auburn, Baylor, and other acclaimed universities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Authement has made many bold leadership decisions throughout his tenure as president of ULL by guiding the university to become a pioneer of computer science in higher education, joining the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I upon its creation, expanding the university's gifted assets and pledges, and creating seventeen research centers to diversify the region's economy during a downturn in the oil industry; and

WHEREAS, as university president, Dr. Authement has also established University Research Park, which currently employs four hundred thirty people and has thirteen tenants, including the National Wetlands Research Center and the Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Authement merits a sincere measure of commendation for his many years of formative and highly productive service as a student, faculty member, and administrator at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and as the fifth president of the university.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana, on Acadiana Red & White Day at the Louisiana State Capitol, does hereby commend Dr. Ray P. Authement upon his retirement as the fifth president of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, does hereby acknowledge and record for posterity his outstanding accomplishments and manifold contributions to higher education in Louisiana, and does hereby extend enduring appreciation and express sincere gratitude for the tremendous pride and honor that he brings to the Acadiana community and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Ray P. Authement.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE