

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 154

BY SENATORS MURRAY, ADLEY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To commend Dr. Norman Francis on his many years of outstanding service and dedication to Xavier University of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Dr. Norman Francis was born on March 20, 1931, in Lafayette, Louisiana, the son of poor parents, neither of whom finished high school; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Francis started out in life as poor and underprivileged, but, as he said later, he did not know that he was poor and underprivileged; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Francis is the president of Xavier University of Louisiana, a position he has held since 1968; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Francis accepted the presidency at Xavier University on the very day that the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1968; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Francis has been Xavier University's second longest-tenured current leader of an American college or university and the only lay president of Xavier University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Francis was named among the one hundred most effective college presidents in a poll published in the Chronicle of Higher Education; and

WHEREAS, he also has served as the president of the American Association of Higher Education and the United Negro Fund; and

WHEREAS, he has been awarded honorary degrees by thirty-five colleges and universities and was invested as a Knight of Malta in 1991; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Francis has served as chairman of the board of directors of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and Educational Testing Service, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and the Southern Education Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Francis is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a member of the National Commission on Excellence in Education, the National Advisory Research Council of the United States Department of Health and Human Resources, and the National Assessment of Higher Education Program; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Francis was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in December 2006; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Francis has provided Xavier University of Louisiana with dedicated service, resulting in the educational growth and development of many Louisiana students; and

WHEREAS, he guided Xavier University's growth in both size and dimension during his tenure as president; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Francis has not only dedicated his life to shaping and bettering the lives of thousands of college students, but has also touched the lives of those who have been privileged to learn from, work with, and know him; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Francis announced his plan to retire from his post as Xavier University's president in June 2015 after serving the university in this capacity for 47 years.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Dr. Norman Francis on his many years of service as president of Xavier University of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Norman Francis.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE