

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM**

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

February 23, 2023

- Item F.1.** **McNeese State University’s** request for approval to award an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to Mr. Charles “Chuck” Kleckley at the Spring 2023 Commencement Exercises.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

McNeese State University (MSU) requests approval to award an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to Mr. Charles “Chuck” Kleckley at the Spring 2023 Commencement Exercises. Mr. Kleckley is an alumnus of MSU having earned his Bachelor of Science from the University in 1993. He owns and operates various small businesses and also is a consultant on governmental affairs. He previously served as a state representative from District 36 from 2005-16. During his tenure, Mr. Kleckley served as the 67th Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives – the first Speaker from Calcasieu Parish. In addition, he chaired the House Insurance Committee and was a member of the State Bond and Louisiana Workers Compensation Commissions, Legislative Budgetary Control Council, Joint Committee on the Budget, the Joint Capital Outlay, House Executive and Legislative Audit Advisory Committees, and the Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Corporation.

Mr. Kleckley was a strong supporter of road improvements in southwest Louisiana and worked to improve the transportation system. He was an advocate of higher education and he worked to improve Louisiana’s insurance and business climate, protect healthcare funding, and focused on Louisiana’s coastal issues from natural resources to conservation. Mr. Kleckley has been a champion of McNeese State University and southwest Louisiana. He led efforts to secure state funding for a new Health and Human Performance Education Complex at MSU that opened in 2018.

In light of the fact that the State of Louisiana benefitted greatly from Mr. Kleckley’s public service, McNeese State University would like to recognize their highly regarded alumnus with an honorary doctorate.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the following resolution be adopted:

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves McNeese State University’s request to award an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to Mr. Charles “Chuck” Kleckley at the Spring 2023 Commencement Exercises.*



MCNEESE STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
DR. DARYL V. BURCKEL

February 1, 2023

Dr. James B. Henderson, President
University of Louisiana System
1201 North Third Street
Suite 7-300
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Dr. Henderson:

McNeese State University requests approval to award an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters degree to Mr. Chuck Kleckley at the May 12, 2023 commencement exercises.

Please place this item on the ULS Board of Supervisors' agenda for consideration and approval at the February 23, 2023 meeting.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Burckel", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Daryl V. Burckel
President

Attachments

February 1, 2023

Dr. James B. Henderson
University of Louisiana System
1201 North Third Street
Suite 7-300
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Dr. Henderson,

I request approval for McNeese State University to grant an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters degree to Mr. Chuck Kleckley to be awarded during the May 12, 2023 commencement exercises.

Mr. Kleckley earned his Bachelor of Science degree in finance in 1993 from McNeese. He owns and operates various small businesses and serves as a consultant on governmental affairs.

He previously served as a state representative from District 36 from 2005-2016. From 2012 through 2016, Mr. Kleckley served as the 67th Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives--the first House Speaker from Calcasieu Parish.

During his tenure in the Louisiana House of Representatives, he chaired the House Insurance Committee and was a member of the State Bond and Louisiana Workers Compensation Commissions, Legislative Budgetary Control Council, Joint Committee on the Budget, the Joint Capital Outlay, House Executive and Legislative Audit Advisory Committees, and the Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Corp.

Mr. Kleckley was a strong supporter of road improvements in Southwest Louisiana and worked to improve the transportation system. Mr. Kleckley was an advocate of higher education and he worked to improve Louisiana's insurance and business climate and to protect healthcare funding. He was also focused on Louisiana's coastal issues from natural resources to conservation.

Mr. Kleckley was a champion for McNeese State University and Southwest Louisiana. He led efforts to secure state funding for a new Health and Human Performance Education Complex at McNeese that opened in 2018.

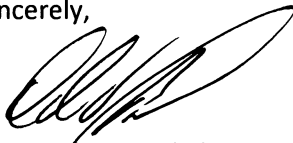
During his legislative career, Mr. Kleckley received several recognitions including the Louisiana Distinguished Civilian Service Medal and Louisiana State Troopers Association Legislator of the Year Award.

He is a native of Lake Charles and a recipient of the 2018 McNeese Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award.

Prior to his election to the Louisiana House of Representatives, he served on the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury from 2000-2005 and as its president in 2003. He has supported and served as a member of numerous civic and business organizations.

Mr. Kleckley's substantial achievements, his passion for service, along with his ardent support for McNeese State University and the state of Louisiana, clearly warrant the granting of the honorary doctorate.

Sincerely,



Dr. Daryl V. Burckel
President



Office of
Academic Affairs
and Enrollment
Management

Box 93220
Lake Charles, LA 70609

Burton Business Center
Rm 427, 450 Lawton Dr.
Lake Charles, LA 70605

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Fax: 337-475-5511

January 25, 2023

Dr. Daryl Burckel
President
McNeese State University

Dear Dr. Burckel:

RE: Nomination of Mr. Charles "Chuck" Kleckley for the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters Degree

The ad hoc Honorary Degree Committee reviewed the nomination of Mr. Charles "Chuck" Kleckley as a candidate for an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters degree.

Upon thorough review and discussion of Mr. Kleckley's lengthy resume, the committee noted that his life and works truly exemplify the mission and vision of McNeese State University. Mr. Kleckley earned his undergraduate degree in finance from McNeese, and he is a recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award. He has served his alma mater, community, and the state of Louisiana with distinction.

Mr. Kleckley owns and operates various small businesses and serves as a consultant on governmental affairs. He previously served as a state representative from District 36 from 2005-2016. From 2012 through 2016, Mr. Kleckley served as the 67th Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives--the first Speaker from Calcasieu Parish. During his tenure in the Louisiana House of Representatives, he chaired the House Insurance Committee and was a member of the State Bond and Louisiana Workers Compensation Commissions, Legislative Budgetary Control Council, Joint Committee on the Budget, the Joint Capital Outlay, House Executive and Legislative Audit Advisory Committees, and the Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Corp.

Mr. Kleckley was a strong supporter of road improvements in southwest Louisiana and worked to improve the transportation system. He was an advocate of higher education and he worked to improve Louisiana's insurance and business climate, protect healthcare funding, and focused on Louisiana's coastal issues from natural resources to conservation.

Mr. Kleckley was a champion for McNeese State University and southwest Louisiana. He led efforts to secure state funding for a new Health and Human Performance Education Complex at McNeese University that opened in 2018.

During his legislative career, Mr. Kleckley received several recognitions including the Louisiana Distinguished Civilian Service Medal and Louisiana State Troopers Association Legislator of the Year Award.

Prior to his election to the Louisiana House of Representatives, Mr. Kleckley served on the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury from 2000-2005 and as its president in



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1-800-622-3352 ext. 5508
Fax: 337-475-5511

2003. He has supported and served as a member of numerous civic and business organizations.

In conclusion, the ad hoc Honorary Degree Committee recommends that Mr. Charles "Chuck" Kleckley be awarded the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from McNeese State University at the May 12, 2023, Commencement Ceremony.

Sincerely,

Dr. Frederick "Chip" LeMieux
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management /
Ad Hoc Honorary Degree Committee Chair

Ad Hoc Honorary Degree Committee Members:

Dr. Wade Rousse
Executive Vice President

Ms. Mona White
Vice President for Business Affairs

Chuck Kleckley
5019 Geddings Place
Lake Charles, La. 70605
(337)540-3936

PERSONAL DATA: **Date of Birth December 3, 1959**
Place of Birth: Lake Charles, La.
Marital Status: Married – Laurie Pitman Kleckley
Children: 3 children, 7 grandchildren

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Science in Finance
McNeese State University
LaGrange High School

EMPLOYMENT: **Self-Employed**
Owner/Operator of various small businesses
2016- present: Governmental Relations
The Picard Group

PUBLIC SERVICE: Louisiana House of Representatives
Speaker of the House 2012-2016
Chairman – House Insurance Committee 2008-2012
State Representative 2005-2016
Calcasieu Parish Police Juror 2000-2005

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES:
Ex-officio of all House committees as Speaker
State Bond Commission
Legislative Budgetary Control Council
Revenue Estimating Conference
Joint Committee on the Budget
Joint Capital Outlay
Interim Emergency Board
House Executive Committee
Legislative Audit Advisory Committee
Louisiana Workers Compensation Commission
Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Corporation

McNeese State University's request for approval to award an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters degree to Mr. Charles "Chuck" Kleckley at the May 12, 2023, Commencement Exercises.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mr. Kleckley received his Bachelor of Science degree in finance from McNeese in 1993. He is a native of Lake Charles and a recipient of the 2018 McNeese Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award.

He served as the District 36 state representative from 2005-2016. From 2012 through 2016, Mr. Kleckley served as the 67th Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives--the first House Speaker from Calcasieu Parish.

Mr. Kleckley was a champion for McNeese State University and Southwest Louisiana. He led efforts to secure state funding for a new Health and Human Performance Education Complex at McNeese that opened in 2018.

Mr. Kleckley was a strong supporter of road improvements in Southwest Louisiana and worked to improve the transportation system. Mr. Kleckley was an advocate of higher education and he worked to improve Louisiana's insurance and business climate and to protect healthcare funding. He was also focused on Louisiana's coastal issues from natural resources to conservation.

Prior to his election to the Louisiana House of Representatives, he served on the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury from 2000-2005 and as its president in 2003. He has supported and served as a member of numerous civic and business organizations.

Mr. Kleckley represents his alma mater with distinction. His substantial professional achievements, his passion for service and his ardent support for McNeese State University clearly warrant the granting of the honorary doctorate.