

Senate Resolution 865

By: Senators Harbison of the 15th, Anderson of the 43rd, Rhett of the 33rd and Karinshak of the 48th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Paul R. Lawrence, PhD, on his outstanding service as Under
2 Secretary for Benefits in the Veterans Benefits Administration; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Paul R. Lawrence, PhD, was nominated by President Donald J. Trump to serve
4 as the 7th under secretary for benefits in the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and
5 was confirmed by the United States Senate on April 26, 2018; and

6 WHEREAS, as under secretary, Dr. Lawrence leads more than 24,000 employees in the
7 VBA in the delivery of benefits programs for veterans; through a nationwide network of 56
8 regional offices, special processing centers, and VBA headquarters, Dr. Lawrence oversees
9 the execution of over \$118 billion in direct benefits to veterans and their dependents; and

10 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
11 States Army, attaining the rank of captain. Dr. Lawrence graduated from the Army's
12 Airborne School and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal; and

13 WHEREAS, prior to his confirmation as under secretary for benefits, Dr. Lawrence served
14 as vice president at Kaiser Associates and attained 30 years of experience working closely
15 with federal leaders as a senior management consultant. He served in leadership positions
16 with such organizations as Ernst & Young, Accenture, the MITRE Corporation, IBM
17 Business Consulting Services, and PricewaterhouseCoopers; and

18 WHEREAS, he is the coauthor of several books, including *Succeeding as a Political*
19 *Executive: 50 Insights from Experience*; *What Government Does: How Political Executives*
20 *Manage*; and *Paths to Making a Difference: Leading in Government*; and

21 WHEREAS, he has served on the Board of Advisors to the Economic Program at his alma
22 mater, the University of Massachusetts, and on the Board of Advisors of the Thomas
23 Jefferson Public Policy Program at The College of William and Mary; Dr. Lawrence was

24 selected twice by *Federal Computer Week* as one of the top 100 public service business
25 leaders; and

26 WHEREAS, Dr. Lawrence has served with honor and distinction with the Veterans Benefits
27 Administration, and his vision and unyielding commitment to public service has inspired
28 many; and

29 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
30 remarkable and distinguished leader be appropriately recognized.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
32 recognize and commend Paul R. Lawrence, PhD, for his efficient, effective, unselfish, and
33 dedicated service to the United States government and extend the most sincere best wishes
34 for continued health and happiness.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
36 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Paul R. Lawrence,
37 PhD.