

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 406

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of Adelaide Wisdom Benjamin.

WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing, on May 30, 2026, of Adelaide Wisdom Benjamin; and

WHEREAS, Adelaide Wisdom Benjamin was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, to William Bell Wisdom and Mary Freeman Wisdom and raised to understand the importance of community involvement; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Benjamin graduated from Louise S. McGehee School and enrolled at Hollins College; after two years, she returned home and enrolled at Newcomb College, where she graduated in 1954; during this period of her life, she reigned as the Krewe of Rex queen on Mardi Gras night; she then earned a law degree at Tulane University School of Law; and

WHEREAS, after completing law school, Ms. Benjamin joined the firm of Wisdom, Stone, Pigman, and Benjamin and practiced law from 1956 to 1958; she married Edward Benjamin and retired from practicing law to focus on raising a family; she graduated from the University of the South's Theological School extension program entitled "Education for Ministry" and was a mentor in the program for six years; and

WHEREAS, after retiring, Ms. Benjamin pursued her passion for volunteering; she joined the board of the New Orleans Symphony in 1983; she was a music lover whose grandparents helped found the orchestra in 1936, and she led the board for five years; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, the orchestra became the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, and it holds the distinction of being the oldest full-time musician-governed and collaboratively operated orchestra in the United States; Ms. Benjamin has contributed through endowments for the orchestra's music director and principal conductor, the latter of which is named in her honor; in 1997, the orchestra dedicated a week of concerts to her; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Benjamin sat on numerous boards, including the Louisiana Museum Foundation, the National WWII Museum, the Louise S. McGehee School, and numerous family foundations; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Benjamin was presented with an honorary doctorate from Loyola University New Orleans, and the university's president's council gave her its Integritas Vitae Award in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Adelaide Wisdom Benjamin is survived by her sons, Edward Wisdom "Ned" Benjamin and Stuart Minor Benjamin; daughters, Mary Dabney Benjamin and Ann Leith Benjamin Hill; ten grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter who is named after her; she will be deeply missed, but the legacy of her outstanding service to the city of New Orleans and love of her family shall live on in the hearts and minds of those who were privileged to have known and loved her.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Adelaide Wisdom Benjamin; does hereby express enduring appreciation for her contributions to the city of New Orleans; and does hereby extend sincere wishes that her family, friends, and loved ones find comfort in their shared memories of her beautiful life.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES