

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 122

BY SENATORS CORTEZ, ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, BROWN, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE AND REPRESENTATIVES ABRAHAM, ABRAMSON, ADAMS, AMEDEE, ANDERS, ARMES, BACALA, BAGLEY, BAGNERIS, BARRAS, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, BISHOP, BOUIE, BROADWATER, CHAD BROWN, TERRY BROWN, CARMODY, CARPENTER, GARY CARTER, ROBBY CARTER, STEVE CARTER, CHANEY, CONNICK, COUSSAN, COX, CROMER, DANAHAY, DAVIS, DEVILLIER, DWIGHT, EDMONDS, EMERSON, FALCONER, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, GLOVER, GUINN, HALL, JIMMY HARRIS, LANCE HARRIS, HAVARD, HAZEL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILFERTY, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HORTON, HOWARD, HUNTER, HUVAL, IVEY, JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, MIKE JOHNSON, ROBERT JOHNSON, JONES, JORDAN, NANCY LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LOPINTO, LYONS, MACK, MAGEE, MARCELLE, MCFARLAND, MIGUEZ, DUSTIN MILLER, GREGORY MILLER, MONToucET, MORENO, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, NORTON, PEARSON, PIERRE, POPE, PRICE, PUGH, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHRODER, SEABAUGH, SHADOIN, SIMON, SMITH, STOKES, TALBOT, THIBAUT, WHITE, WILLMOTT AND ZERINGUE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Edgar G. "Sonny" Mouton Jr., one of Louisiana and Acadiana's most well-known and beloved political figures, spending much of his civic career as a leader in state government and a longtime state legislator.

WHEREAS, it is with great sadness that the citizens and the Legislature of Louisiana learned of the death of Edgar G. "Sonny" Mouton Jr., at age eighty-six, a longtime Louisiana political leader from Lafayette, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Edgar G. "Sonny" Mouton Jr. attended Cathedral High School and graduated in 1947 as class valedictorian, received his bachelor's degree from Tulane University in New Orleans in 1951, and obtained his Juris Doctor from Tulane University Law School in 1953; and

WHEREAS, he began his legal career in Lafayette, Louisiana, establishing the law firm of Mouton and Roy in 1953; and

WHEREAS, Edgar G. "Sonny" Mouton Jr. was a democratic member of the Louisiana Legislature from 1964 to 1980; and

WHEREAS, he was first elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1964 and served until 1966; and

WHEREAS, in 1966 he was elected Louisiana state senator for the Twenty-Third District serving until 1980, and was elected President Pro-Tempore of the Louisiana Senate, serving from 1976-80; and

WHEREAS, he served as chairman of the Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare, vice chairman of the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee, as a member of the Governor's Committee on Reorganization of State Government, and as a member of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget; and

WHEREAS, Senator Mouton was instrumental in implementing the French Immersion program and was the principal author of the legislation which created CODOFIL; and

WHEREAS, he was the legislative floor leader for Governor Edwin Edwards for eight years, was chosen as the top Senate floor leader for six years by Governor John McKeithen, and Governor Dave Treen, a republican, chose Edgar Mouton Jr. a lifelong democrat, to serve as his Executive Counsel for three years; and

WHEREAS, he was instrumental in passing the 1974 Louisiana constitution and ran for governor of Louisiana in 1979 as nonpartisan in the blanket primary; and

WHEREAS, he continued to serve in various capacities throughout his career including Special Counsel to Governor Edwards in 1985; and

WHEREAS, he was named Louisiana's Best Legislator for three consecutive years in the 1970s, dubbed "Best Orator", inducted into the "Order of Living Legends" in 2003, into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame in 2004 and 2008, and was honored as Lafayette Parish Democratic Executive Committee's first Lifetime Achievement Award winner; and

WHEREAS, he was an exemplary and highly admired citizen of Louisiana who worked tirelessly on a multitude of business, civic, political, and religious causes throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, he was known as a humanitarian serving as the national vice president of the Muscular Dystrophy Association, president of the Hub City Kiwanis Club, board member of the Chamber of Commerce, member of the Lafayette Bar Association, past chairman of the Bishop's Service Appeal, past chairman of the Easter Seal Society, past board member on the State Board on Mental Health, a Fourth Degree Knight, and was inducted as "Chevalier De L'Orde National Du Merit", and he and his wife were also awarded the Key to the City of Lafayette by then City-Parish President Joey Durel; and

WHEREAS, he served his community, his city, and his state aggressively and successfully, was directly responsible for such worthy projects as the Lafayette Regional Technical Vocational Institute, University Medical Center, the Cajundome and Cajun Field, and helped secure millions of dollars of other capital construction programs at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, and additional funding for hundreds of miles of roads and bridges within the state were secured during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, he always put God first, but was the loving, devoted, and dedicated husband to the one and only love of his life for sixty-four years, Patsy Dauphin Mouton, and was a committed father to his four daughters, Cheryl Trumps and her husband Jerry, Patti Judice and her husband Clay, Kathy Aycock and her husband Larry, and Mary Whitaker; and

WHEREAS, he was also a cherished grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and uncle whose love of family was of the utmost importance in his life; and

WHEREAS, because of his numerous accomplishments in public and private life, the death of Edgar G. "Sonny" Mouton Jr. has left a void in his community and is a great loss to the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, he was a superb chess player, and enjoyed golfing, hunting, fishing, reading, spending time with his loyal companion, his Chinese Shar Pei named Honey Bear and living life to its fullest; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our American society depend, in great measure, upon men like Edgar G. "Sonny" Mouton Jr., who dedicate their lives, and careers to public service and to sharing their knowledge, time, and energy to make a difference for future generations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana honors the life and service of Edgar G. "Sonny" Mouton Jr., acknowledges his enormous contributions to the improvement of the status of his state, his parish, and his city, recognizes him as an extraordinary man who will long be remembered, and pays tribute to his remarkable legacy which will live on in the hearts of the many people whose lives he touched.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Legislature of Louisiana express their sincere condolences to the family of Edgar G. "Sonny" Mouton Jr. upon the occasion of his death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his wife Patsy Dauphin Mouton.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES