

1 partners acting as informal mentors for many fledgling attorneys recently out of law school
2 who would gather at the firm's office, not far from the courthouse; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Curet set about establishing an esteemed law practice and becoming
4 involved in his community beyond the courthouse and the law office, a goal attained as he
5 looked back on his years of law practice upon his retirement in 2005 after fifty-five years
6 as an attorney; and

7 WHEREAS, Louis Curet served as president of the Baton Rouge Bar Association in
8 1972, a position that came with a seat on the board of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation,
9 which allowed him to broaden his view of the many needs of the nonprofit groups and
10 projects in the greater Baton Rouge area; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Curet's efforts within the legal community earned him the honor
12 of a fellowship with the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, and, in 2004, he was
13 named one of two distinguished attorneys in Louisiana by the Louisiana Bar Foundation; and

14 WHEREAS, almost from its inception in 1971, the Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center,
15 named for a law school classmate of Mr. Curet's, was a focus of support for both Louis and
16 Jean Curet and, eventually, both of them underwent cancer treatment at the facility with
17 surgeries performed a mere thirty days apart; and

18 WHEREAS, Jean Curet succumbed to cancer in 2000, but Louis Curet continued as
19 a tireless fundraiser and supporter of the center, eventually, serving as chairman of the board
20 of the center and earning the designation of Director Emeritus; and

21 WHEREAS, because of his indefatigable fundraising efforts on behalf of Mary Bird
22 Perkins Cancer Center, the Louis Curet Volunteer Fundraiser Award is named in his honor;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, with a small group of like-minded individuals, Mr. Curet founded the
25 Friends of French Studies at Louisiana State University, and at the organizational meeting
26 in 1998, he was chosen as the group's first president; and

27 WHEREAS, Louis Curet believed that the establishment of a community support
28 organization to assist the French Department at Louisiana State University in furtherance of
29 its mission to promote and preserve the French language and culture in Louisiana was much
30 needed; and

1 WHEREAS, since its inception, the Friends organization has raised sufficient funds
2 to establish thirteen professorships in Louisiana State University's French Studies
3 department, as well as many scholarships for summer intern programs in Barcelonette,
4 France; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Curet referred to his distinct accent as Creole, a remnant of his
6 childhood in Pointe Coupee Parish where many people in the early twentieth century spoke
7 only Cajun or Creole French, which inspired him to teach himself French and ignited his
8 lifelong commitment to maintaining the influence of French in Louisiana culture; and

9 WHEREAS, Louis Curet was a member of the Downtown Kiwanis Club beginning
10 in 1952 and he worked diligently in support of the group's annual pancake breakfast held at
11 the Pete Maravich Assembly Center at Louisiana State University, which raises funds to
12 support the groups many philanthropic projects; and

13 WHEREAS, combining his love of history and his devotion to the practice of law,
14 Mr. Curet served as both member and chairman of the Supreme Court of Louisiana
15 Historical Society; and

16 WHEREAS, recently, Louis Curet established the A.B. Curet scholarship for
17 agriculture at the Louisiana State University School of Agriculture in honor of his father,
18 A.B. Curet, who was the county agent in Pointe Coupee Parish for forty years; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Curet, over the years, served on the boards of the Baton Rouge
20 Foundation for Historical Louisiana and the Our Lady of the Lake Foundation; and

21 WHEREAS, Louis Curet's wide-ranging interests included service to the Society of
22 St. Vincent de Paul, the Friends of the Louisiana State University Library, Sigma Chi alumni
23 association, Phi Delta Phi International Fraternity, and the church of which he was a
24 member, Sacred Heart Catholic Church; and

25 WHEREAS, Louis Curet's colleagues, younger attorneys he mentored, and those he
26 encountered in his role of philanthropist describe Mr. Curet as a gentleman, a person who
27 set about getting things done, a tireless and articulate advocate, and a lover of people; and

28 WHEREAS, in 2001, Mr. Curet was inducted into the Louisiana State University
29 Alumni Hall of Distinction, recognizing his positive impact upon and unflagging devotion
30 to Louisiana State University and its mission of providing an excellent education and an

1 enriching university experience; and

2 WHEREAS, in 2006, Louis Curet was honored to receive the Golden Deeds award,
3 given by the Inter-Civic Council of Baton Rouge and *The Advocate*, capping a long life of
4 involvement in philanthropy and community activism born of his kind-hearted nature and
5 his tenacious efforts to make the lives of others richer and more meaningful; and

6 WHEREAS, Louis Curet was devoted to his daughter, Jeanne, and her husband,
7 David McQuire James and their three surviving children as well as many other in his
8 extended family; and

9 WHEREAS, on the day of his death, Louis Curet attended an exercise class with his
10 daughter and two downtown functions in Baton Rouge before succumbing to a heart-related
11 condition in the evening; and

12 WHEREAS, as a philanthropist and community leader, Louis Curet's impact upon
13 his beloved Baton Rouge reached into nearly every area of need or human endeavor over
14 nearly seventy years of service; and

15 WHEREAS, for more than eighty-eight years Louis Curet lived a life of warmth,
16 action in support of others, empathy for others, dedication to the highest ideals of the legal
17 profession, trust in his religious faith and an abiding sense of wanting to make the lives of
18 others better each day, a noble intention and a promise kept.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
20 express sincere condolences upon the death of Louis D. Curet, a Baton Rouge philanthropist,
21 attorney, and community leader.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
23 Jeanne Curet James.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary D. O'Brien.

DIGEST

SCR 4 Original

2016 Second Extraordinary Session

Claitor

Expresses condolences upon the death of Louis D. Curet.