

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

BY SENATOR CLAITOR AND REPRESENTATIVE FOIL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of
Louis D. Curet.

WHEREAS, Louis D. Curet, age eighty-eight, was a respected Baton Rouge attorney, generous philanthropist, dedicated supporter of Louisiana State University, and a recipient of the prestigious Golden Deeds award; and

WHEREAS, Louis Curet was born in New Roads, Louisiana, in Pointe Coupee Parish and after completing his secondary school education he traveled to Baton Rouge to earn both his undergraduate degree and his Juris Doctor from Louisiana State University; and

WHEREAS, Louis Curet married Jean Harvey Curet, and the couple raised their adored daughter, Jeanne, together and enjoyed thoroughly their forty-nine years devoted to each other and their family; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation from law school, Louis Curet began a law practice with Sam D'Amico, a Baton Rouge criminal defense attorney, and the two located their office on Third Street in downtown Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, D'Amico and Curet became a small, well-respected firm with considerable influence within the legal community that emanated largely from the firm's partners acting as informal mentors for many fledgling attorneys recently out of law school who would gather at the firm's office, not far from the courthouse; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Louis Curet was a member of the Downtown Kiwanis Club beginning in 1952 and he worked diligently in support of the group's annual pancake breakfast held at

the Pete Maravich Assembly Center at Louisiana State University, which raises funds to support the group's many philanthropic projects; and

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, in 2001, Mr. Curet was inducted into the Louisiana State University Alumni Hall of Distinction, being recognized for his positive impact upon and unflinching devotion to Louisiana State University and its mission of providing an excellent education and an enriching university experience; and

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

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

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

condition in the evening; and

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

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

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

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

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES