

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 75

BY SENATORS MARTINY AND ALARIO

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of G. Frank Purvis.

WHEREAS, G. Frank Purvis died on April 20, 2017, at the age of one hundred two at his home in New Orleans, Louisiana, having lived a very productive and satisfying life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Purvis was born to G. Frank Purvis and Mamie Wumble Purvis on November 22, 1914, in Rayville, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Frank Purvis attended elementary school in Rayville and then Kemper Military Academy, where he finished first in his class; and

WHEREAS, in 1935, Mr. Purvis received his law degree from Louisiana State University Law School at the tender age of twenty; and

WHEREAS, while in law school, Frank Purvis was awarded the Order of the Coif for finishing in the top ten percent of his class, and he was in Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Purvis moved home to Rayville and began his practice of law and he held several appointed positions in state government, including legal counsel for the Louisiana Secretary of State, was Ex Officio Insurance commissioner and special assistant to the Louisiana Attorney General; and

WHEREAS, prior to the United States entering World War II, Frank Purvis volunteered to serve in the United States Navy in August 1941 and was called to active duty following the devastating Japanese attack on the Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7, 1941; and

WHEREAS, after an assignment at Northwestern University, Mr. Purvis requested sea duty and served as an anti-submarine officer on active service in both the Atlantic and

the Pacific theaters of war; and

WHEREAS, upon returning from his service in World War II, Frank Purvis was appointed deputy Louisiana Insurance Commissioner followed by serving as special assistant Attorney General, in which positions he was responsible for drafting the Louisiana Insurance Code, which was adopted in 1948, and also assisted in drafting the insurance law for Puerto Rico, a United States territory at the time; and

WHEREAS, in 1949 Mr. Purvis joined Pan-American Life Insurance Company as assistant general counsel, held several other posts in the company and in 1964 he was promoted to president and chief executive officer, becoming the first Louisiana-born president of that company, later being named chairman of the board and remaining on the board until 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Pan-American Life Building and the Intercontinental Hotel, both in New Orleans, Louisiana, were constructed during his leadership and remain monuments to Frank Purvis' legacy at Pan-American Life; and

WHEREAS, while at Pan-American, Mr. Purvis was chair of the largest association of life insurance companies in the United States as well as the largest health insurance organization; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Purvis served on a number of boards during his life, including chair of the Board of Commissioners for the Port of New Orleans, the board of the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, as well as a member of the Chamber, and the board of the Tuberculosis Association of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Frank Purvis served as president of the New Orleans Federation of Churches, the Young Men's Christian Association, and the Council for a Better Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, as a great champion of higher education, Frank Purvis received the extraordinary honor of having a chair at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette endowed and named the "G. Frank Purvis Endowed Chair in Insurance and Risk Management" which was established in the academic year 1996-1997, and he served on the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors and on Loyola University of New Orleans Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, with extensive work in academia, Mr. Purvis served as a professor of law at Louisiana State University Law School, for a number of years he taught insurance law at Tulane's University College; he received the prestigious Integritas Vitae Award in 1991 from Loyola University of New Orleans, and was honored by the United Teachers of New Orleans as Man of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Frank Purvis also received the Order of Balboa from the president of the Republic of Panama and a special honor from Pope John Paul II; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Purvis enjoyed playing golf and gin rummy and was a member of various social clubs in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Purvis was preceded in death by his first wife, Winston Wendt Purvis, and one daughter, Virginia Purvis; he is survived by his daughter Winston Wendt Purvis, son G. Frank Purvis, and second wife Helen Purvis, as well as numerous grandchildren, nieces, nephews, stepchildren, and step-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, G. Frank Purvis was a World War II veteran, a loving and caring family man, an accomplished attorney and businessman, a religious man, a friend to academia, and a man of extensive public accomplishments who lived a long and successful life and has left many to treasure their memories of him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere condolences upon the death of G. Frank Purvis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Helen N. Purvis of New Orleans.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE