

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 153

BY REPRESENTATIVE GUINN

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences upon the death of former mayor of Welsh and former state representative James Paul "Jimmy" Martin

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of James Paul
3 "Jimmy" Martin, former state representative and mayor of Welsh.

4 WHEREAS, it was with great sorrow of spirits and sadness of hearts that the
5 members of the House of Representatives received word of the transition on May 21, 2017,
6 of James Paul "Jimmy" Martin, who ably served the residents of District No. 37 in the House
7 of Representatives from 1972 to 1992; Jimmy Martin was eighty-eight years old; and

8 WHEREAS, James was born to Dr. and Mrs. Claude A. Martin on March 10, 1929;
9 he was the youngest of his siblings, Gertrude Martin Fernholz, Kathleen Martin Power, and
10 Abbot Matthew Martin, all of whom preceded him in death; and

11 WHEREAS, Jimmy graduated from St. Stanislaus College in Bay St. Louis,
12 Mississippi, in 1946, attended Southwestern Louisiana Institute of Lafayette, and received
13 a bachelor of science degree from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama; and

14 WHEREAS, Jimmy Martin answered the call of duty to his country and served in the
15 United States Army from 1951 to 1953 in the Korean War; after his military service, he
16 worked as an agent and field underwriter for New York Life; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1956, Jimmy married the love of his life, Bernadine Fontenot, and
18 was a loving husband to Bernadine for sixty-one years until his death; he was a committed
19 father and grandfather who cherished the love of his family; and

20 WHEREAS, in 1967, Jimmy Martin was elected mayor of Welsh, Louisiana, and was
21 reelected without opposition in 1971, but after serving one year of his second term as mayor,

1 he was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1972 and served five terms as
2 the representative of his constituents in Jefferson Davis Parish and East Calcasieu; Jimmy
3 joined a group of dynamic legislators known as "The Young Turks" and helped usher in
4 sweeping changes in legislative protocol and policies; and

5 WHEREAS, during his twenty years as a state representative, Jimmy Martin served
6 on the House Committee on Appropriations, the House Committee on House and
7 Governmental Affairs, the House Committee on Retirement, and the House Committee on
8 Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs; he served as chairman of the House Legislative
9 Services Council and the House Committee on Agriculture; and

10 WHEREAS, a faithful parishioner of Our Lady of Seven Dolours Parish in Welsh,
11 Jimmy Martin served the youth of Louisiana as a member of the Boy Scouts of America and
12 was a member of the executive board of the Calcasieu Area Boy Scouts; he was awarded the
13 Silver Beaver Emblem; Mr. Martin also was a charter member of the East Deanery Sierra
14 Club, a member of the Welsh Rotary Club, and a member of Welsh Council No. 2855
15 Knights of Columbus and was a grand knight, a charter member of the Monsignor Peter's
16 Assembly of the Fourth Degree, and received the Fourth Degree Order of Merit in 1984 for
17 his generous services to the community; and

18 WHEREAS, in 1990, Representative Martin was named by Pope John Paul II as a
19 knight of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of Pope Saint Sylvester and was invested in the
20 order at the tenth anniversary of the Diocese of Lake Charles during the Honors
21 Convocation; and

22 WHEREAS, in 1993, Jimmy Martin was once again elected mayor of his hometown
23 of Welsh; he was inducted into the St. Stanislaus College Hall of Fame on April 8, 2000; and

24 WHEREAS, left to cherish the memory of James Paul Martin are his wife Bernadine,
25 his children and their spouses, Claude Martin, Andree Martin Hainkel, John Hainkel, John
26 Martin, and Robert Mericle; his grandchildren Victor Martin, Alexandra Hainkel, Roth
27 Hainkel, and Madilyn Martin; and his great-granddaughter Olivia Hainkel; those who knew
28 and loved James Martin will miss his presence but may find comfort in wonderful memories
29 of good times shared with him that will remain forever.

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
2 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend deepest sympathies to the family and friends
3 of former state representative and mayor of Welsh, Louisiana, Jimmy Martin; does hereby
4 express enduring gratitude and pride in the many outstanding civic contributions Mr. Martin
5 made to his community and his legislative contributions to the state; and does hereby offer
6 sincere thoughts and prayers for peace and comfort to those who mourn the loss of one of
7 Louisiana's finest sons.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
9 to the family of Jimmy Martin.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 153 Original

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Guinn

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