

2017 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 137

BY SENATOR THOMPSON

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Alan Ray Ater, who formerly served as a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives and as secretary of state.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the  
3 death of Alan Ray "Al" Ater, who formerly served as a member of the Louisiana  
4 House of Representatives and as secretary of state.

5 WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the  
6 Louisiana Senate have learned of the death of Alan Ray "Al" Ater on Sunday, May 21, 2017,  
7 at the age of sixty-three; and

8 WHEREAS, a native of Decatur, Illinois, and a longtime resident of Ferriday,  
9 Louisiana, Mr. Ater was a respected and admired individual who made a tremendous impact  
10 on this state; and

11 WHEREAS, Al Ater was born on December 15, 1953, the youngest of the five  
12 children of Donald Edward Ater and the former Ruth Lavonne Chapman; and

13 WHEREAS, after his family moved to Louisiana, he graduated in 1971 from  
14 Huntington High School in Ferriday and then attended Northwestern State University in  
15 Natchitoches; and

16 WHEREAS, first and foremost, Al Ater was a farmer and steward of the land and  
17 on his Lakeland Planting Company, farmed corn, cotton, soybeans, and rice in several  
18 parishes of northeast Louisiana; and

1           WHEREAS, in 1984, Al Ater was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives  
2 where he served until 1992; and

3           WHEREAS, he used every opportunity as an able and productive legislator to serve  
4 the people of Catahoula, Concordia, and Tensas parishes and all of his fellow citizens in an  
5 honorable and dedicated manner; and

6           WHEREAS, as the state representative for District 21, Mr. Ater served diligently as  
7 a member of several committees, including the House Committee on Agriculture, the House  
8 Committee on Enrollment, the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, the  
9 House Committee on Ways and Means, and the House Committee on Transportation,  
10 Highways and Public Works, of which he served as vice chairman, and the House  
11 Legislative Services Council; and

12           WHEREAS, opting not to run for reelection after his second term in the legislature,  
13 Mr. Ater returned to the private sector; and

14           WHEREAS, in 2001, he was named Secretary of State Fox McKeithen's first  
15 assistant; he then worked as first deputy in the Department of Insurance for a year before  
16 returning to the secretary of state's office; and

17           WHEREAS, in 2005, following Mr. McKeithen's death, Mr. Ater served as secretary  
18 of state; and

19           WHEREAS, Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita struck the state while Mr. Ater  
20 served in this office, and he was widely praised for his handling of complex election issues  
21 in the aftermath of these historic storms; and

22           WHEREAS, in 2009, Mr. Ater was deservedly recognized for his accomplishments  
23 and contributions as a public servant when he was inducted into the Louisiana Political  
24 Museum and Hall of Fame, and the following year, he retired from public service in order  
25 to focus on his primary passions of farming and family; and

26           WHEREAS, throughout the course of his life and career, Mr. Ater generously shared  
27 his time, talents, and expertise through his work with the Louisiana Tourism Development  
28 Commission, the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs, the Concordia Parish  
29 Farm Bureau, Catalyst Energy in Vidalia, the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement  
30 System, the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Second Injury Board, the International

1 Association of Corporation Administrators, and the National Association of Secretaries of  
2 State; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Ater was preceded in death by his parents, Donald Edward and  
4 Lavonne Ater, and his sister, Kay Ater Goeggle; he is survived by his wife of thirty-two  
5 years, Susie Beard Ater; his children, Whitney Lauren Ater, Thomas Ater, and Elliott Ater;  
6 his grandsons, Soren Riker, Kai Riker, and Benton Ater; his granddaughters, Maya Fuentes  
7 and Graciela Fuentes; his siblings, Donald Ater, Lynette Ater Tanner, and Edward Ater; and  
8 numerous nieces and nephews; and

9 WHEREAS, the death of Mr. Ater has left a great void and created a genuine sense  
10 of sorrow in all who knew him, including the members of the Senate family, all of whom  
11 mourn the loss of this wonderful man who served his state so well; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Ater will never be forgotten, leaves a rich and unique legacy, and  
13 is greatly missed by the many citizens whose lives he touched.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
15 does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Alan Ray "Al" Ater;  
16 does hereby recognize and record for posterity his notable accomplishments and singular  
17 contributions during his eight-year tenure as a member of the Louisiana House of  
18 Representatives and his distinguished service as secretary of state; and does hereby extend  
19 enduring appreciation for this wonderful man who will forever bring pride and honor to his  
20 family, his community, and his state.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
22 family of Al Ater.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Curry Lann.

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SR 137 Original

DIGEST  
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