

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 153

BY REPRESENTATIVES GUINN, ABRAHAM, ABRAMSON, AMEDEE, ANDERS, ARMES, BACALA, BAGLEY, BAGNERIS, BARRAS, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, BISHOP, BOUIE, BROADWATER, CHAD BROWN, TERRY BROWN, CARMODY, CARPENTER, GARY CARTER, ROBBY CARTER, STEVE CARTER, CHANEY, CONNICK, COUSSAN, COX, CREWS, CROMER, DANAHAY, DAVIS, DEVILLIER, DWIGHT, EDMONDS, EMERSON, FALCONER, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, GLOVER, HALL, JIMMY HARRIS, LANCE HARRIS, HAVARD, HAZEL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILFERTY, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HORTON, HOWARD, HUNTER, HUVAL, IVEY, JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, JOHNSON, JONES, JORDAN, NANCY LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LYONS, MACK, MAGEE, MARCELLE, MARINO, MCFARLAND, MIGUEZ, DUSTIN MILLER, GREGORY MILLER, MORENO, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, NORTON, PEARSON, PIERRE, POPE, PRICE, PUGH, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHRODER, SEABAUGH, SHADOIN, SIMON, SMITH, STAGNI, STEFANSKI, STOKES, TALBOT, THIBAUT, THOMAS, WHITE, AND ZERINGUE

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, in 1967, Jimmy Martin was elected mayor of Welsh, Louisiana, and was reelected without opposition in 1971, but after serving one year of his second term as mayor, he was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1972 and served five terms as the representative of his constituents in Jefferson Davis Parish and East Calcasieu; Jimmy joined a group of dynamic legislators known as "The Young Turks" and helped usher in sweeping changes in legislative protocol and policies; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, left to cherish the memory of James Paul Martin are his wife Bernadine, his children and their spouses, Claude Martin, Andree Martin Hainkel, John Hainkel, John Martin, and Robert Mericle; his grandchildren Victor Martin, Alexandra Hainkel, Roth

Hainkel, and Madilyn Martin; and his great-granddaughter Olivia Hainkel; those who knew and loved James Martin will miss his presence but may find comfort in wonderful memories of good times shared with him that will remain forever.

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES