

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 246

BY REPRESENTATIVES BROADWATER, ROBBY CARTER, STEVE CARTER,
MACK, POPE, AND PUGH

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences on the death of 21st Judicial District and Louisiana Court of Appeal 1st Circuit former judge Ernest G. "Ernie" Drake, Jr.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of 21st Judicial District Court
3 and Louisiana 1st Circuit Court of Appeal former judge Ernest G. "Ernie" Drake, Jr.

4 WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the
5 House of Representatives learned of the death on Wednesday, June 7, 2017, of Ernest G.
6 "Ernie" Drake, Jr., former judge on the 21st Judicial District Court and the Louisiana 1st
7 Circuit Court of Appeal; and

8 WHEREAS, Judge Ernie Drake was widely admired and respected for his fair and
9 equitable application of the law and was well known for his "tough on crime" stance; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Drake earned a bachelor's degree from Southeastern Louisiana
11 University and a juris doctorate from Tulane University Law School in 1974; upon his
12 graduation from law school, he joined the firm of Allen B. Pierson, Jr., where he worked for
13 six years before forming his own law firm, with his sister and several other local attorneys,
14 which had offices on West Pine Street in downtown Ponchatoula; Mr. Drake practiced law
15 for twenty-four years until his 1988 election to the 21st Judicial District Court, Division G;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Ernie Drake married the love of his life, Linda Williamson, and the
18 couple raised two beautiful children and were blessed with two grandchildren; Ernie Drake
19 was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Ponchatoula and was active in many local
20 groups; and

1 WHEREAS, elected in 1998 to the 21st Judicial District, Judge Drake served on that
2 bench until 2013, when he was elected to a one-year term on the Louisiana 1st Circuit Court
3 of Appeal; he was reelected in 2014 to a ten-year term but retired in October 2016; and

4 WHEREAS, as a trial judge, Ernie Drake presided over cases from seat belt ticket
5 violations to first degree murder to the \$30 million CECOS class action suit; he served the
6 citizens of Tangipahoa, Livingston, and St. Helena parishes; and

7 WHEREAS, those who knew Judge Drake remember his commitment to family, his
8 love of community, and his commitment to local politics; he was a voracious reader and a
9 friend to all, and he expressed great joy in working the campaign trail, where he made new
10 friends and reconnected with lifelong friends; Judge Drake genuinely enjoyed people and
11 his life bespoke his constant search for something new to learn; and

12 WHEREAS, left to cherish his memory are his loving wife, Linda Williamson Drake;
13 children, Aliska Drake Fuller, and her husband Todd, and Ernest G. Drake, III, and his wife
14 Laura Drake, M.D.; grandchildren, Cameron Fuller and Thomas John Drake; and

15 WHEREAS, the death of Ernie Drake has left a great void and created an
16 overwhelming sense of sorrow in those who knew him; the impact of the loss of this
17 wonderful man who equitably adjudicated for his community and state is incalculable; and

18 WHEREAS, Ernie Drake leaves a rich and unique legacy in the execution of the law;
19 he will be greatly missed by all whose lives he touched, and with his passing, Louisiana bids
20 farewell to one of her finest sons.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
22 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the
23 death of Judge Ernest G. "Ernie" Drake, Jr.; does hereby recognize that his legacy of
24 dedicated service shall forever endure; and does hereby record for posterity the abiding
25 appreciation of the citizens of the state for his extraordinary contributions and achievements.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
27 to the family of Ernest G. "Ernie" Drake, Jr.

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 246 Original

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Broadwater

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