

2018 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1

BY REPRESENTATIVE MORENO

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences upon the death of Judge Peter Beer

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Judge Peter  
3 Beer.

4 WHEREAS, Peter Hill Beer was born on April 12, 1928, in New Orleans, to Mose  
5 and Henriette Lowenburg Beer; and

6 WHEREAS, after graduating from Isidore Newman School in 1945, Peter began a  
7 life of noble public service, first by volunteering for the Army during what would be the  
8 closing months of World War II; he became an infantry corporal and was honorably  
9 discharged in 1946; and

10 WHEREAS, after he came home to New Orleans, he enrolled at Tulane University;  
11 in 1949, he graduated and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Air Force Reserve;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Peter then enrolled in law school at Tulane, where he served as  
14 president of the Student Bar Association; and

15 WHEREAS, he was recalled to active duty in the Korean conflict; after graduating  
16 from law school, he continued his military service as a first lieutenant and, later, a captain  
17 in the Air Force's Judge Advocate General's Corps; and

18 WHEREAS, in 1954, Mr. Beer began his civilian legal career with the law firm of  
19 Montgomery, Barnett, Brown and Sessions, where he worked for two decades and became  
20 managing partner; and

1           WHEREAS, in 1962, Peter Beer was called to action during the Cuban missile crisis;  
2 a recipient of the Bronze Star, he retired from the Air Force as a lieutenant colonel; and

3           WHEREAS, Mr. Beer served a term on the New Orleans City Council from 1970 to  
4 1974, and was elected to the state's Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal in 1974; and

5           WHEREAS, Judge Beer stressed the importance of equal protection of individual  
6 rights; in 1975, he ruled that a man's illegitimate daughter had the right to inherit her father's  
7 property, arguing that the Louisiana Civil Code article that provided otherwise was  
8 unconstitutional; the Legislature repealed that article in 1979; and

9           WHEREAS, that same year, President Carter nominated him to be a federal judge,  
10 and he gave thirty years of honorable service as a jurist on the U.S. District Court in New  
11 Orleans; and

12           WHEREAS, while on the bench, Judge Beer earned a master of laws degree at the  
13 University of Virginia; in 2007, he received the Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., Award for  
14 his service to the school's trial advocacy program; and

15           WHEREAS, his retirement closed out a year in which he was the plaintiff in *Beer v.*  
16 *United States*; he was one of six judges who sued to win cost-of-living pay raises; the  
17 decision affected more than one thousand three hundred thirty federal judges; and

18           WHEREAS, Judge Beer is survived by his wife, Marjorie Beer, his children, Kenneth  
19 Beer, Kimberly Beer Bailes, and Dana Beer; his stepchildren; seven grandchildren; six step-  
20 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren; and

21           WHEREAS, although the death of Judge Peter Beer has left a tremendous void in his  
22 community and in the judicial system that he served so long and so well, his legacy shall  
23 forever live in the hearts and minds of all the citizens whose lives he touched.

24           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
25 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the  
26 death of Judge Peter Beer; does hereby recognize and record for posterity the contributions  
27 and accomplishments of Judge Beer, an exemplary public servant, to the city of New Orleans  
28 and to our state and nation; and does hereby pay tribute to Peter Beer for the generous and  
29 effective way in which he dedicated his intelligence and his energy to justice.

1           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
2 to the family of Judge Peter Beer.

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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)]

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HR 1 Original

2018 First Extraordinary Session

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Expresses condolences upon the death of Judge Peter Beer of New Orleans.