

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 22

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Paul Marion Toce Sr., a self-made man, who lived an extraordinary life, achieving great success as founder and chief geologist for Toce Oil Co., now Toce Energy.

WHEREAS, it is with a deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens of Louisiana and the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the death of Paul Marion Toce Sr. on Monday, November 27, 2017, at the age of eighty-six; and

WHEREAS, Paul began as a football standout at the old Lafayette High, earning a scholarship to play receiver on the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) football team, then known as South Louisiana Institute (SLI), sustaining a career-ending knee injury during his freshman season, but he always cherished the university for honoring his four-year scholarship, even when he was unable to play football; and

WHEREAS, Paul grew up poor, without a father, and would never have earned a college degree in geology without the uncommon loyalty bestowed upon him by the university, which he never forgot; and

WHEREAS, Paul joined the Air Force ROTC after his football injury, and quickly became the commanding lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, it was then that he stumbled upon the greatest blessing he would ever receive, winning the hand of Patricia Lucille "Patty Lou" Robicheaux in marriage; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation, Paul fulfilled his commitment to his state, and his country in the United States Air Force, serving in the European Theatre with Patty Lou by his side; he was honorably discharged, having earned the rank of First Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, once back from Europe, Paul earned his first job in the oilfield at Royal Dutch Shell, and after working several years, he left Shell and founded Toce Oil Co. where his knack for finding oil vaulted him into a lifestyle about which he could have only dreamed of after growing up with no father and a working mother; and

WHEREAS, Paul was an exemplary and highly admired citizen of Louisiana who worked tirelessly on a multitude of business, civic, political, and religious causes throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, Paul was a loving and devoted husband to the love of his life for sixty-two glorious years, a dedicated father to his three sons, Dr. Paul M. Toce Jr., Victor Albert Toce, Andre' Francis Toce, and his "Baby Girl", Patty Lou Toce Marshall; a cherished grandfather of sixteen grandchildren; and five treasured great-grandchildren, earning him the beloved title of "Pop T", and he was a loving relative and friend whose love for his family and friends was of the utmost importance in his life; and

WHEREAS, the Toce family was able to travel the world together from the dove hunting fields of South America, the double black diamond ski slopes of Aspen, and back bowls of Vail, to the Grand Canyon, Yosemite National Park, and Disney Resorts in California and Florida, to countless days with the family water skiing and hang gliding at False River, to the Vatican, ancient Roman ruins, China, and Pompeii, the family enjoyed experiences beyond compare, which will be cherished in their memories forever; and

WHEREAS, Paul and Patty were also fortunate enough to watch all four of their children graduate from college (and able to pay for it all), with Paul Jr. becoming a local doctor, Victor becoming the geologist who would take over Paul's oil and gas exploration legacy, Andre' becoming a successful trial attorney, and Patty creating a career in the hospitality industry, currently holding a position on the University of Louisiana at Lafayette campus; and

WHEREAS, Paul and Patty shared their many blessings generously with the community, from founding a perpetual geology scholarship grant at ULL, helping to build the St. Pius X Catholic Church and the Elementary School, and supporting orphaned children in Uganda, Africa, to constant donations over the years supporting hundreds of charitable causes for the less fortunate throughout Lafayette, Louisiana, and beyond; and

WHEREAS, because of his numerous accomplishments in public and private life, the death of Paul Marion Toce Sr. has left a void in his community and his state; and has created a genuine sense of profound sorrow for his family and friends and all who were fortunate enough to have known him; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of men like Paul Marion Toce Sr. who use their considerable talents and resources to help create a better place to live for future generations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize, acknowledge, and honor the life of Paul Marion Toce Sr., pay tribute to his remarkable legacy, and extend sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family of Paul Marion Toce Sr. on the occasion of his death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Paul Marion Toce Sr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE