



1           WHEREAS, when Mr. Pat was eighteen he married Agnes Hebert and, a year later  
2 in 1948, they opened a grocery store of their own, beginning the career that would make Pat  
3 Huval a household name throughout South Louisiana in the heart of Cajun country, and  
4 beyond; and

5           WHEREAS, the Huvals worked dawn to dusk every day, selling groceries,  
6 hamburgers, and crawfish by the sack; and

7           WHEREAS, to make ends meet, Mr. Pat worked on dredging boats in the evenings  
8 after the store closed; and

9           WHEREAS, Mr. Pat and Agnes added crawfish and seafood dishes to their modest  
10 fare offered at the grocery store; and

11           WHEREAS, always careful with their money and focused on saving for the future,  
12 the Huvals were able to purchase a local dance hall and restaurant, but in 1952, they sold that  
13 business and purchased another building; and

14           WHEREAS, the second building became home to Pat's Restaurant in Henderson,  
15 which soon gained fame as a place where delicious, home-cooked crawfish dishes were the  
16 stars of the menu; and

17           WHEREAS, by the 1960s Pat's Restaurant became a destination for people  
18 throughout Louisiana and, eventually, the world and, in addition the dining room was  
19 regularly filled to capacity; and

20           WHEREAS, in the early 1960s, Pat's became a gathering spot for Louisiana  
21 politicians as it was near Baton Rouge and everyone loved the crawfish and seafood dishes  
22 served in the lively atmosphere; and

23           WHEREAS, with mentors George Dupuis and Robert Angelle, along with  
24 politicians, the then serving Governor John McKeithen and state Senator Paul Hardy, Pat  
25 Huval was encouraged to put his energy and natural business acumen to work for the people  
26 of Henderson in the political arena; and

27           WHEREAS, in 1971, having spearheaded the move to incorporate, after the  
28 incorporation of Henderson, Louisiana, as a town, Pat Huval ran for mayor and won, serving  
29 nearly twenty-two years as the first mayor; and

30           WHEREAS, Pat Huval served on the board of directors of Farmers-Merchants Bank

1 for over ten years and in the 1990s Governor Edwin Edwards named him to serve on the  
2 Atchalafaya Levee Board; and

3 WHEREAS, Pat and Agnes Huval were dedicated to progress for the little hamlet of  
4 Henderson, where most of the roads were dirt or gravel; as mayor he made repairing and  
5 upgrading the roads his first priority and, once most of the roads within the town limits were  
6 paved, Pat moved on to build a town hall, a local jail and, eventually, a twenty-acre park and  
7 established a fire department; and

8 WHEREAS, Pat and Agnes Huval had four children and they celebrated their  
9 fourteen grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren who were largely their focus in  
10 improving the town through civic activities and business enterprises; and

11 WHEREAS, three of the Huval's children currently work in the restaurant, dance hall  
12 known as the Atchafalaya Club, motel, factory, and crawfish peeling plant complex known  
13 as "Pat's Fisherman's Wharf" property; and

14 WHEREAS, Pat Huval's son Harvey said of his father, "he started with practically  
15 nothing in his life. He borrowed three hundred dollars to start his business and he became  
16 a multimillionaire. We have . . . five businesses and all of them do well"; and

17 WHEREAS, Pat Huval did not stop at public service, he was known for little acts of  
18 kindness and generosity, paying for others' home repairs, subsidizing mortgages, being sure  
19 no one in Henderson went hungry, and being in line to assist the local church with what it  
20 needed to serve the people; and

21 WHEREAS, Pat Huval was a man who was dedicated to his family, his town and its  
22 citizens, and to establishing a business for his children to carry on; he was an amazing  
23 entrepreneur and a visionary who could see his small seafood shack operation becoming a  
24 thriving business enterprise for the good of his family and his community; and

25 WHEREAS, Patrick Joseph Huval will be long remembered as a community leader,  
26 a compassionate neighbor, a loving patriarch, a steadfast friend, and an extraordinarily  
27 perceptive citizen and businessperson.

28 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
29 express sincere condolences upon the death of Pat Huval, famous restaurateur, former  
30 mayor of Henderson, Louisiana, proud Cajun, and extraordinary visionary, and entrepreneur.

