

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 94

BY SENATOR MORRISH

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences on the death of John Daniel Gielen III.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the
3 death of John Daniel Gielen III, of Crowley.

4 WHEREAS, John Daniel Gielen III, affectionately known as John Dan, was born to
5 John Daniel II, and Julia John Gielen on October 18, 1938, in Crowley, Louisiana, where he
6 spent most of his life; and

7 WHEREAS, John Dan graduated from St. Michael Catholic High School and earned
8 a degree in history from Mississippi College; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1959, John Dan married his sweetheart, Peggy Angelle, and together
10 they raised four daughters; and

11 WHEREAS, John Dan fulfilled his dream of going into business in May of 1966
12 when he opened a ShopRite store; from the first store, the Gielen business empire has grown
13 to include thirty-five ShopRite stores, twenty-five Tobacco Plus stores, and Church Point
14 Wholesale; more than one thousand people in fifteen parishes are employed by Gielen
15 businesses; and

16 WHEREAS, John Gielen was a dedicated, civic-minded man who served on the
17 St. Michael Catholic High School, Notre Dame High School, and Acadia Parish School
18 boards, and on the board of directors of the National Association of Tobacco Outlets; he was

1 a member of the Knights of Columbus and avidly supported the youth in Acadia Parish;
2 Mr. Gielen was recognized as Business Man of the Year in 1998 by the Crowley Chamber
3 of Commerce; and

4 WHEREAS, a humble man who gave freely of himself for others, John Dan Gielen
5 was a leader in fund raising in Acadia Parish for St. Jude's Children Hospital; his businesses
6 have raised more than a million dollars for St. Jude; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2012, Mr. Gielen funded the construction of Freedom Plaza in Duson
8 to pay tribute to the nation's armed forces; Freedom Plaza honors the five military branches
9 of the United States and features a ten-foot high monument engraved with the names of
10 natives of Acadia, Lafayette, St. Landry, and Vermilion parishes whose lives were lost in
11 combat in U.S. wars from World War II to present; and

12 WHEREAS, John Dan was a believer in God who actively practiced his faith through
13 an honorable devotion to the Blessed Mother; he carried his cross with a quiet, gentle grace,
14 and his Christianity was evident to employees and customers alike; proud of his German and
15 Lebanese heritage, John Dan was ever thankful to God for the privilege to pursue
16 opportunities in America; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Gielen valued the gift of his family, who are left to cherish his
18 memory: his wife of fifty-nine years, Peggy; his daughters, Shawne Gardiner and her
19 husband Todd, Arlise and Tracey Gielen, and Heidi Viator and her husband Durk; his sister,
20 Mary Anne Stefanski and her husband Steve; his brother, L.J. and his wife Chee Chee; his
21 grandchildren, Sumar Griffith and her husband Jeremy, Brynne, Lauren, Todd, Marianne,
22 Gabriel, and Alex Gardiner, Madeline Dupuis and her husband Lance, Cody Gielen and his
23 wife Nicole, Annelise and Joseph Gerami, Regan Lormand and her husband Blaine,
24 Jordan Viator and his wife Elizabeth, Christian Viator and his wife Lacey, Katherine,
25 Anne-Claire, Joshua, Jacob, Mary Grace, and Juliette Viator; and seventeen
26 great-grandchildren; through his family and his businesses, John Daniel Gielen III, has left
27 an indelible mark on the fabric of the state of Louisiana.

28 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
29 does hereby extend sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of
30 John Daniel Gielen III, upon his passing and does hereby offer prayers and hopes for peace

1 and comfort to those who mourn him.

2

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
4 Peggy Angelle Gielen.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Ann S. Brown.

SR 94 Original

DIGEST
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