

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 158

BY SENATOR MILLS

CONDOLENCES. Expresses sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Wade Joseph Watkins.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the  
3 death of Wade Joseph Watkins.

4 WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens of Louisiana  
5 and the members of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the passing  
6 of Wade Joseph Watkins, on January 28, 2018, at age ninety; and

7 WHEREAS, he was born in New Iberia, Louisiana, on July 2, 1927, and raised in St.  
8 Martinville where he shared his life with his devoted wife, Kathryn, of sixty-three years and  
9 where they raised their four children; and

10 WHEREAS, he retired from the United States Army after forty-two years of service  
11 and was a veteran of World War II; and

12 WHEREAS, starting at a young age, Wade Watkins had a vast experience of life  
13 roles including working in the cane, pepper and cotton fields with his uncles and relatives,  
14 running a seafood market with his wife, working in construction, being a car salesman, and  
15 working in the oilfield with Humble Oil; and

16 WHEREAS, he also worked for the United States Postal Service walking seven miles  
17 a day as a mail carrier for over twenty years, served as Park Ranger and 4th of July  
18 celebration coordinator, was a member and decorated medalist for the National Guard Rifle

1 Team at state and national levels, was coach and sponsor for the American Legion Junior  
2 Rifle Team who became national winners, Army National Guard Recruiter, Sheriff's Deputy  
3 for thirty-three years, operated the Auxiliary Police, served with Civil Defense, worked in  
4 private security, and also operated a boat motor repair shop with his son for many years; and

5 WHEREAS, Wade Watkins pushed for the rights and protection of the elderly and  
6 was a founder of the first TRIAD program in St. Martin Parish and in the nation; and

7 WHEREAS, he was also the driving force behind the Veteran's Memorial in St.  
8 Martinville - a dream which he worked on tirelessly for over twelve years and accomplished;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Wade Watkins once rode a double decker airplane with President Harry  
11 Truman; and

12 WHEREAS, he was a decorated boxer in the United States Army in several classes;  
13 he was called "Frenchie" when stationed in Germany because of his fluent French; he  
14 actually lied about his age to join the United States Army and was sent home until he turned  
15 seventeen; he then served in the European theatre of war, while his dad and uncles served  
16 on the Pacific theatre; and

17 WHEREAS, Wade Watkins was injured by severe frost bite on his right hand and  
18 ear when he ended up in a cave with his platoon for weeks, landing him in the hospital, but  
19 not before discovering and recovering some of Hitler's treasures that were stolen from the  
20 German's hidden deep inside the cave; and

21 WHEREAS, he was honored by the Woodman of the World and the Veterans of  
22 Foreign Wars as well as Citizen of the Year in 2013 by the American Legion, and also  
23 awarded as Citizen of the Year by the city of St. Martinville in 1973 for saving a man's life  
24 - not being his first time to do so, or his last; and

25 WHEREAS, Wade Watkins was a devout Catholic who prayed the Rosary daily and  
26 was a very faithful man who knew his God well; he was actively involved in his parish  
27 church of St. Martin de Tours, serving as a Catholic Youth Group Leader, alongside Alvin  
28 and Gerry Cormier and Wiltz and Pearl Bienvenue, mentoring many with time and patience  
29 and leading by example and was proud to be thought of as an "Honorary Father and  
30 Grandfather"; and he was a member of the Knights of Columbus, American Legion, VFW,

1 and Honor Guards; and

2 WHEREAS, he was known as "the man of 17 uniforms" because of his active  
3 involvement in his community and countless hours volunteering; and

4 WHEREAS, he was an avid hunter, and founder of the Big W Hunting Club; he  
5 loved to camp with his family, and enjoyed fishing with his son-in-law, Richard, and  
6 caregivers, Leah and John; and

7 WHEREAS, he brought strength and passion to his family, teaching them all about  
8 God and to give of yourself; he never sought recognition and was very humble in all he did;  
9 he was quick to pick up the pieces for all of his nieces, nephews, and cousins in their times  
10 of need; and he was the grandfather to all of their children at one time or another and was  
11 quick to become the "favorite uncle" because of his guidance and time he gave to all; he  
12 spent many years following his grandkids to the various activities they participated in and  
13 guided them all to the adults they are today by his example; and

14 WHEREAS, he had three girls he considered his "Wednesday's Child", Tricia  
15 Hammon, Billy Broussard Theriot, and Michelle Tauzin stepped up as the father figure to  
16 the girl he considered his surrogate daughter - Susan Broussard Douet, aka his "Suzie-Q";  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Wade Watkins was preceded in death by his wife, Kathryn Chastant  
19 Watkins; his parents Columbus and Rena Oubre Watkins; brothers-in-law, Warren,  
20 Raymond, Richard, and Norman Chastant; sisters-in-law, Loretta Chastant Prados, Juliette  
21 Chastant Lee, and Margaret Chastant Broussard; and

22 WHEREAS, he is survived by son, Kirk Watkins and wife, Jeannie; three daughters,  
23 Phyllis Watkins Castille and husband, John, Patty Watkins Boudreaux and husband, Scott,  
24 and Lori Watkins Hurst and husband, Richard; six grandchildren Sean Castille and wife  
25 Kristal, Clint Castille and partner Ashley Bouton, Jeremy Watkins and wife, Nicole, Amy  
26 Watkins, Jamie Watkins, and Christian Hurst; six great grandchildren, Hunter Bulliard,  
27 Hannah Guilbeau, Hugh Castille, Nicholas Watkins, Luke Watkins, and Easton Castille;  
28 sisters-in-law, Rose, Joyce, Shirley, and Jackie Chastant; his exchange student  
29 granddaughter, Klara Kall, of Sweden; and numerous nieces and nephews; and

30 WHEREAS, Wade touched many in the community; he was a loyal and trusted

