

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Joseph John Lewis III.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing of Joseph John Lewis III on June 7, 2018, at the age of seventy-eight; and

WHEREAS, Joseph John Lewis III was born on January 1, 1940, to Joseph John Lewis Jr. and Mary Lou King Lewis; and

WHEREAS, he was raised on the family farm, attended J. S. Clark High School, and later joined his older brother, George, to work at a fish plant in Texas; and

WHEREAS, from there, Joseph Lewis joined Union 692 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and worked as a laborer, working on pipelines until he retired when, along with his wife, he became a successful business owner providing affordable housing within the community; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Lewis married the love of his life, Dolly Mae Birotte, and from this union two children were born: Danielle Marie Lewis Castain and Victor Paul Lewis; and

WHEREAS, he was a devoted member of Holy Ghost Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS, Joseph and Dolly worked freely as community servants and campaigned for the candidates they thought would better serve their country, state, or local community; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Lewis was an ambassador for the National Federation of the Blind for over twenty-five years; his work as an advocate for the blind included travels to many places including Washington, DC, where, as a delegate, he lobbied to bring Braille into schools and earned the Jerry Hemphill Award, which is named for an individual who promoted Braille; and

WHEREAS, he was also president of the Magnificent 7 Social and Civic Club with

the main mission being to unite the community through public awareness on social services, celebrating children through parents, and hosting two free balls a year where several hundred people were in attendance; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis was known by many as either Joseph, Joe Lewis, Jivey Joe, or the nickname "Bay" that his parents gave him, and he answered to all; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Lewis loved spending time with his family and traveling; his hobbies were attending horse racing with friends, tailgating while attending the New Orleans Saints football games with his son, and watching western movies and sports; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his father, Joseph John Lewis Jr., and mother, Mary Lou King Lewis; four brothers, Paul, George, Johnny, and Dennis Lewis; his grandparents, aunts, and uncles; nephews, Michael, Patrick (Pa Pat), Michael Todd Lewis (Toddy); a niece, Rhonda Lewis Taylor; a brother-in-law, James Carroll; and sisters-in-law, Willie Vie Lewis and Grace Lewis; and

WHEREAS, he leaves to cherish his memory his wife of fifty-seven years, Dolly Lewis; one daughter, Danielle Lewis Castain and husband, Joseph (J.C.) Castain; one son, Victor (VPL) Lewis and wife, Tiffanie Griffin Lewis; five grandchildren, Joseph Soban Castain III and wife, Elecia, Alexandra Castain Patel and husband, Kunal, Jazmond Castain, Kyra Lewis, and Zion Lewis; two great-grandchildren, Ava and Zoey Castain; three brothers, Lawrence Lewis (Pumpkin) and wife, Linda (Sac), Rodney Lewis (Black) and wife, Priscilla, and Jimmy Lewis and wife; five sisters, Elizabeth Jones, Gloria Carroll, Willie Mae Hughey and husband, William, Mary Chachere and husband, Russell, and Jeanette Chachere and husband, Glenn; sisters-in-law, Ruby Lewis and Barbara Lewis; two goddaughters, Terry Gauthier and Peggy Noel; devoted longtime friends, Robert Lee Davis and Gerald Hardy (Poochie), and many special nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives, and friends; and

WHEREAS, he was a beloved son, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, godfather, and friend who was admired and respected by many and, upon his death, the world lost a unique individual who left an indelible mark and huge void for family, friends, clients, community, and all those who had the privilege to have known him; and

WHEREAS, the strength of our communities and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of men like Joseph John Lewis III who use their talents and resources to leave a legacy and to benefit future generations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Joseph John Lewis III, does hereby extend appreciation for the pride and honor that he will forever bring to his community and to the state of Louisiana, and does hereby recognize and record for posterity his outstanding accomplishments and his legacy of work for the blind and for his community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the widow of Joseph John Lewis III, Dolly Lewis.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE