

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24

BY SENATORS PEACOCK AND WALSWORTH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of Duane K. Ebarb of Shreveport, a kind and caring individual who worked tirelessly as a champion for the rights of the disabled as a consultant, public servant, educator, administrator, and friend.

WHEREAS, Duane Kenneth Ebarb passed peacefully from this life on Thursday, September 6, 2018, at the age of sixty-nine; and

WHEREAS, he was an exuberant and lifelong crusader for the concerns of the physically handicapped, mentally disabled, and the elderly; he improved the quality of life for disabled individuals, in particular, through the enhanced availability and ready access of public services, housing, education, and economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Duane Ebarb experienced firsthand the obstacles and limitations placed upon the physically disabled by society having been wheelchair-bound after experiencing a spinal cord injury as a young adult; and

WHEREAS, during his lifetime Duane had a far-reaching effect on the removal of barriers that inhibited the access of the handicapped to all manner of public services and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Woodlawn High School in Shreveport, Duane rose to the rank of colonel in Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) and was the top ranked cadet in Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, after graduation, Duane looked forward to military service and volunteered for the United States Marine Corps; an unfortunate accident left him paralyzed and prevented his service; however, he was a patriot and remained a strong supporter of those who served in the military; and

WHEREAS, he faced life fearlessly and did not let anyone or anything stand in his way; he led a full life instilled with ambition and fortitude to follow his dreams and become a contributing member of the community; and

WHEREAS, Duane Ebarb persevered despite his disabilities to complete a bachelor of arts degree from LSU-S in 1978; and

WHEREAS, his tenure as a support services advocate included positions as a member of the board of directors of the New Horizons Independent Living Center, president of the Shreveport Mayor's Advisory Council for Persons with Disabilities, and region leader of Louisiana Citizens for Action Now (LaCAN); and

WHEREAS, Governor John Bel Edwards appointed him to serve on the board of the Northwest Louisiana Human Services District as a proponent for individuals with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Duane was honored with receipt of the Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities Ken Vince Memorial Award in 2008 and received Mayor Cedric Glover's Award for Excellence in Leadership in Disabilities in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Duane also served on the board of directors for ThinkFirst of the Ark-La-Tex, an organization that promotes injury prevention education; and

WHEREAS, Duane Ebarb was a frequent spokesman for the rights of the disabled; he advocated the tenets of independent living and lobbied local and state lawmakers concerning the availability of community-based support services for the disabled; and

WHEREAS, with his affable demeanor Duane Ebarb acted as the catalyst to "keep in touch" with his Woodlawn High School classmates; he was that connection who kept everyone informed and involved over the decades since graduation; and

WHEREAS, his accomplishments, both great and small, may seem incidental to the able-bodied; however, to the physically challenged these improvements were uplifting and life-changing, particularly for adults with disabilities who sought to live independently; and

WHEREAS, Duane was an active member of Christ United Methodist Church and served on numerous committees; at his funeral the Reverend Mark Goins eulogized that he was an individual who loved large and lived out loud and whose determination knew no disability; and

WHEREAS, Duane Ebarb embraced a certain *joie de vivre*, the joy of life that was reflected in his belief that his physical limitations were lessened by the capacity of his mind to dream and his heart to love; and

WHEREAS, Duane shall be fondly remembered for his unselfish acts of kindness, determination, and his lifetime of significant contributions of improved accessibility and support services afforded to the disabled citizens of his community and state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere condolences on the passing of Duane K. Ebarb of Shreveport, an advocate for those individuals with disabilities and a person blessed with an immeasurable capacity for empathy for his fellow man.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his mother, Elaine Ebarb.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES