

2020 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 53

BY SENATOR ALLAIN

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences on the death of former Louisiana House of Representatives and Senate member, the Honorable Dudley Anthony "Butch" Gautreaux Jr.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of the Honorable Dudley Anthony "Butch" Gautreaux Jr., renown public servant, beloved gentleman, and a former member of both the Louisiana House of Representatives and the Louisiana Senate, and to celebrate his service and devotion to the law and the welfare of the people of the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it was with deep remorse and a profound sense of sorrow that the Legislature of Louisiana learned of the sudden and unexpected passing of D.A. "Butch" Gautreaux Jr. on February 22, 2020, at the age of seventy-two; and

WHEREAS, Dudley Anthony "Butch" Gautreaux Jr. was born on December 12, 1947, the only son of six children born to parents, Dudley A. Gautreaux Sr. and Cora W. Gautreaux of Morgan City, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Butch Gautreaux was a native and long-term resident of Morgan City before retiring in Thibodaux, Louisiana, in 2017; and

WHEREAS, he was a 1966 Central Catholic High School graduate and then attended Nicholls State University, and he remained a loyal supporter throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, he was a veteran who proudly served his state and his country in the United States Navy from 1968 to 1972 as a 2nd Class Petty Officer; and

1 WHEREAS, "Butch" Gautreaux and his partner and friend, Kenny Zimmer,
2 co-owned ZIMGO Company, a retail, appliance, automotive, and furniture multi-location
3 establishment, where he was a small business owner for thirty years in Morgan City; and

4 WHEREAS, he was a problem solver and negotiator without par; his intelligence and
5 depth of compassion made him an invaluable asset or a formidable opponent; and

6 WHEREAS, he was first elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1996
7 and served one term until 2000, representing House District 51; and

8 WHEREAS, in the 2000 election cycle, "Butch" Gautreaux Jr. was elected to the
9 Louisiana Senate and served from 2000 until 2012, representing the constituency of Senate
10 District 21 until he term limited out; and

11 WHEREAS, serving as a legislator for sixteen years, he was a strong voice in Baton
12 Rouge for the less fortunate, both in his constituency and statewide, and he led the efforts
13 for saving Louisiana's wetlands, was an avid supporter of the local fishing industry, and was
14 passionate about the fiscal management of the state, especially its retirement systems; and

15 WHEREAS, he was very active in local, professional, and civic organizations
16 including St. Mary Arc; AARP; Morgan City Rotary, Past Treasurer and Paul Harris Fellow;
17 Morgan City Civitan Club, Past Vice President; and the Louisiana Retailers' Association,
18 Board Member; and

19 WHEREAS, after Hurricane Katrina, Senator Gautreaux took on insurance
20 companies so that those who lost their homes could be compensated fairly and could rebuild,
21 he also cared very deeply for teachers and state employees, and always demanded they be
22 treated with respect; and

23 WHEREAS, he was known and respected as a tireless worker for the citizens of the
24 state he loved so dearly; a true statesman, he didn't seek personal glory he merely knew no
25 other pathway than the one that made him a pragmatic advocate for the least among us; and

26 WHEREAS, he was honored by the Senate Democratic Caucus, and selected Whip
27 for his final legislative term; and

28 WHEREAS, Senator "Butch" Gautreaux was proud of the accomplishments that
29 punctuated his service in the Louisiana State Legislature, serving as the chair of the Senate
30 Committee on Retirement; as vice-chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee; as a

1 member of the Senate committees on Health and Welfare and Transportation, Highways, and
2 Public Works; as a member of the Senate select committees on Coastal Restoration and
3 Flood Control, Consumer Affairs and Technology, Homeland Security, and the oversight of
4 the Gulf Coast Claims Facility; as the Senate President's designee to the Public Retirement
5 Systems' Actuarial Committee; and as an interim member of the Senate Committee on
6 Revenue and Fiscal Affairs and the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay; and

7 WHEREAS, "Butch" Gautreaux Jr. was a staunch advocate for state employee and
8 teacher retiree healthcare and retirement benefits, serving as a Senate appointee on the Office
9 of Group Benefits Policy and Planning Board, protecting state-funded employee/teacher and
10 retiree health and life insurance benefits, and leading the fight against defined contribution
11 and other retirement plans in 2010 and 2011, thereby preserving state employee, teacher,
12 school employee, and State Police defined benefit retirement plans, which still remain in
13 effect until this day; and

14 WHEREAS, as the Senate Retirement Committee chairman, he also led the fight to
15 enhance and protect retiree cost of living allowances (COLAs), thereby preserving the only
16 mechanism, known as the Experience Account, needed to fund retiree permanent benefit
17 increases or COLAs, and upon his retirement from the Louisiana Senate in 2012, Senator
18 "Butch" Gautreaux was named a Board Member Emeritus of the Retired State Employees
19 Association of Louisiana, in recognition of his body of work on behalf of state employees
20 and retirees during his legislative tenure, serving with dignity in that capacity for
21 approximately eight years until his passing in 2020; and

22 WHEREAS, he received numerous awards and accolades throughout his career,
23 including but not limited to the 1997 Outstanding Rural Award, the 1998 Friend of the
24 Parishes Award, the 2001 Louisiana Wildlife Federation Legislator of the Year Award, the
25 2004 Leonard J. Chabert Leadership Award, the 2006 Tobacco Free Living Legislative
26 Champion Award, and the 2009 State Troopers' Association Legislator of the Year Award;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, D.A. "Butch" Gautreaux Jr. touched so many lives in ways that will
29 never be fully known except by the recipients of his kindness; he was always fair and loyal,
30 and always tried to do what was right, even if it was not the popular thing to do; and

1 WHEREAS, he was a loving husband to his wife of fifty-one years, Marilyn (Mire)
2 Gautreaux, a devoted father to his children, Michael and Rhonda Gautreaux and Lee and
3 Stephanie Gautreaux; a cherished grandfather to his seven grandchildren, Alana Andras
4 (Justin), Andrew "Buck", Andrew "Drew", Adrien, Abigail, and Katelyn; a treasured brother
5 to his five sisters, JoAnne Hebert (Russell), Penny Russo, Gail Fazzio (Tony), Cora Phillips
6 (Keith), Mary Gautreaux; and beloved uncle and relative to numerous nieces and nephews
7 whose love of family was of utmost importance in his life; and

8 WHEREAS, in death, D.A. "Butch" Gautreaux Jr. leaves a tremendous void in his
9 community and state, however, he also leaves a rich and unique legacy in the annals of
10 Louisiana's political history, and he shall remain as a fond remembrance in the hearts of all
11 who knew him; and

12 WHEREAS, D.A. "Butch" Gautreaux was a true and passionate statesman and the
13 definition of a southern gentleman and the likes of him may not pass this way again.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
15 express its sincere condolences upon the death of former legislator, the Honorable D.A.
16 "Butch" Gautreaux Jr. and does hereby acknowledge the unique role he played in the
17 development of the institutions of the state legislature that he loved and the extraordinary
18 examples of leadership and humanity that he set throughout his life.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that his was a life well spent in public service and
20 in service to his community, his state, his country, and his God.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his
22 wife, Marilyn Gautreaux.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Tammy Crain Waldrop.

	DIGEST	
SCR 53 Original	2020 Regular Session	Allain
Expresses condolences upon the death of former legislator D.A. "Butch" Gautreaux Jr.		