

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 35

BY SENATOR FOIL

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of William F. "Willie" Staats.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens of Louisiana learned of the death of William F. "Willie" Staats on November 15, 2019; and

WHEREAS, William F. "Willie" Staats was born to William and Rena Staats in San Antonio, Texas, in 1938; and

WHEREAS, he received a bachelor's degree from Texas Lutheran University where he and his future wife, Esther, were homecoming king and queen; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Staats received a doctorate from the University of Texas, and after receiving his Ph.D., he taught briefly at Rice University in Houston, Texas, subsequently becoming vice president and corporate secretary of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, the youngest person ever at the time to hold such a position; and

WHEREAS, he then moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he taught for thirty years at Louisiana State University (LSU), holding the position of The Hermann Moyse, Jr. Distinguished Professor and Louisiana Bankers Association Chair of Banking; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Staats served as director of the Bankers School for Supervisory Training, was a member of the faculty at the Graduate School of Banking at LSU, and a member of the faculty of the LSU Executive Program, and served on the faculty of several state banking schools as well as the American Bankers Association Graduate School of Compliance Management; and

WHEREAS, he was a director of the Farm Credit Bank of Texas; cofounder and chairman of the board of SevenOaks Capital Associates, LLC; and founder of two banks, the New Braunfels National Bank in New Braunfels, Texas, and Lakeside Bank in Lake Charles, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Staats was named to the board of the nation's first bridge bank by

the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and served on the Board of Regents of Texas Lutheran University for many years; and

WHEREAS, as an eloquent and compelling communicator, he published many books and articles and was very active on the speaking circuit, making presentations across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Staats enjoyed voicing his opinion in a column in the *Baton Rouge Advocate* and was an expert witness in banking cases in several states; and

WHEREAS, he loved spending time with his family and was passionate about his volunteer work, serving over the last forty-eight years at St. Paul Lutheran Church and the Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Staats served on the board of Money Management International and Consumer Credit Counseling Services, nonprofit organizations which provide personal credit and financial counseling and education; and

WHEREAS, he loved country music, managed a band in college, and worked at KWED Radio in Seguin, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Staats became family-famous for his "Monkey, Mouse, and Elephant" stories that he told his children every night when they were little which reflected his love of animals, particularly dogs; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his loving wife of fifty-nine years, Esther; his children, Stephen and Kristine; and his grandchildren, Audrey and Darren Staats, and Kaylen and Ryan Brzozowski; and

WHEREAS, the death of William F. "Willie" Staats has left a substantial void in the Baton Rouge community and a sense of loss in the citizens whose lives he touched, and his memory shall live forever in the minds and hearts of all those who knew and loved this remarkable gentleman.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of William F. "Willie" Staats, record for posterity his outstanding achievements, and extend enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that he will forever bring to the Baton Rouge community, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of America.

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ENROLLED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of William F. "Willie" Staats.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE