## SLS 20RS-1997

## **ORIGINAL**

2020 Regular Session

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74

BY SENATOR ABRAHAM

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Ravi Zacharias.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Ravi
3	Zacharias, head of a global ministry and best-selling author.
4	WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the Legislature of
5	Louisiana has learned of the passing of Ravi Zacharias on May 19, 2020, at age
6	seventy-four, after a brief battle with cancer; and
7	WHEREAS, the popular author and Christian teacher was known for his work
8	through Ravi Zacharias International Ministries (RZIM), which focused on apologetic
9	arguments for the existence of God and the reasonableness of Christianity, with the mission
10	of "helping the thinker believe and the believer think"; and
11	WHEREAS, he spent much of his time in ministry responding to philosophical
12	attacks, insisting his faith held the answers to life's central questions of origin, meaning,
13	morality, and destiny; preached in more than seventy countries, and authored more than
14	thirty books, encouraging Christians to engage with skeptics by presenting reasoned,
15	respectful, yet robust, answers to humanity's existential questions; and
16	WHEREAS, Frederick Antony Ravi Kumar Zacharias was born in Madras (now
17	Chennai), India, in 1946, to Isabella and Oscar, and was raised in the Anglican faith; and
18	WHEREAS, Zacharias, while still a skeptic, discovered his calling at age seventeen

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- after trying to take his life by swallowing poison and, while recovering, he turned to the
   Bible and shortly thereafter began the study and the work which would eventually lead him
   to his calling as a Christian apologist; and
- WHEREAS, he immigrated to Canada at the age of twenty and graduated with a
  Bachelor of Theology degree from Ontario Bible College (Tyndale College and Seminary)
  in Toronto, Ontario, in 1972; and
- WHEREAS, after a formative trip to several countries, including Vietnam and
  Cambodia, he moved to Deerfield, Illinois, graduated with a Master of Divinity from Trinity
  Evangelical Divinity School in 1976, and taught at the Alliance Theological Seminary in
  New York while continuing to travel; and
- WHEREAS, the Rev. Billy Graham invited Zacharias to preach at the inaugural International Conference for Itinerant Evangelists in Amsterdam in 1983 and a year later founded Ravi Zacharias International Ministries (RZIM) in 1984, an organization that has grown to about two hundred employees in sixteen offices around the world, with more than seventy traveling speakers; and
- WHEREAS, in the 1980s, he began a weekly half-hour radio program, "Let My
  People Think", which is now syndicated to over two thousand stations in thirty-two
  countries; and
- WHEREAS, his first published book was entitled *A Shattered Visage: The Real Face of Atheism* in 1990; his best-selling book, *Can Man Live Without God?*, was awarded the
  Evangelical Christian Publishers Association (ECPA) Christian Book Award; two other
  Christian best sellers were *Jesus Among Other Gods* and *The Grand Weaver*, and his most
  recent book, *The Logic of God: 52 Christian Essentials for the Heart and Mind*, won the
  Evangelical Christian Publishers Association's 2020 Christian book award in the Bible study
  category; all of which have been sold in over one hundred thirteen countries; and
- WHEREAS, in 1992, he was the keynote speaker at the Veritas Forum, an event which is committed to conversations between persons of the Christian faith and people from different backgrounds with other beliefs and is hosted on the campus of Harvard University; and
- 30

WHEREAS, in 2004, he established the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics at

1	Oxford University (OCCA), where he was an honorary senior research fellow between 2007
2	and 2015, and at which has trained over four hundred students from fifty countries; and
3	WHEREAS, in the same year, he formed Wellspring International, the humanitarian
4	division of the ministry as an outreach in memory of his mother's work with the destitute;
5	and
6	WHEREAS, in 2015, he spoke at the Louisiana Governor's Prayer Breakfast and, in
7	recent years, Mr. Zacharias made three trips to visit with inmates at Angola State
8	Penitentiary; on his third and final visit to the prison in 2019, he experienced a sharing of
9	faith in his interaction with those on Death Row which he would later say, " make it
10	impossible to block the tears" and, as an expression of his deep connection with the inmates
11	that developed since his first visit, the prisoners made him the casket in which he was buried;
12	and
13	WHEREAS, in what proved to be his last speaking engagement, Zacharias spoke to
14	a crowd of over seven thousand at the University of Miami's Watsco Center on the subject
15	of "Does God Exist?"; and
16	WHEREAS, his international outlook and the ease at which he interacted with people
17	around the world opened doors that had been closed for many years as a global leader,
18	including four appearances at the United Nations since 2000; and
19	WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife of forty-eight years, Margie; daughters, Sarah
20	and Naomi; son, Nathan; and five grandchildren; and
21	WHEREAS, he saw the objections and questions of others not as something to be
22	rebuffed, but as a cry of the heart that had to be answered; and
23	WHEREAS, those who knew him well will remember him for his kindness,
24	gentleness, generosity of spirit, and for his philanthropy.
25	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
26	express sincere condolences upon the death of Ravi Zacharias, head of a global ministry and
27	best-selling author.
28	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his
29	wife, Margie Zacharias.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

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DIGEST 2020 Regular Session

Abraham

Expresses condolences upon the death of Ravi Zacharias, head of a global ministry and best-selling author.