

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 44

BY REPRESENTATIVE GAROFALO

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of William Thomas "Bill" Bergeron.

WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and regret that the House of Representatives has learned of the death, on February 2, 2021, of William Thomas "Bill" Bergeron; and

WHEREAS, William Thomas Bergeron was born on August 12, 1947, to Roland Joseph Bergeron, Jr., and Helen Pitts Torres Bergeron in St. Bernard, Louisiana; he was a graduate of St. Bernard High School; and

WHEREAS, after high school, Bill worked at his father's company, Bergeron Machine Shop, Inc.; at twenty-three years old, he successfully negotiated a bid to build New Orleans's iconic Steamboat Natchez; this project created nearly one hundred new jobs and opened the door for the construction of both a new fabrication yard in Plaquemines Parish and a dry dock along the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bergeron and his brothers helped grow their small machine and fabrication shop into an international marine services and manufacturing operation known as Bergeron Industries, Inc.; among many other accomplishments, the company secured the largest reported inland river barge contract in United States maritime history; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bergeron was also an active member of the maritime and civic communities; he served as chairman of the board of commissioners of the Port of New Orleans, and most recently he served as president of the board of commissioners of St. Bernard Port, Harbor, and Terminal District; he was also involved in numerous associations, including the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, the New Orleans Board of Trade, and The World Trade Center; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bergeron received numerous awards for his many contributions to the Louisiana maritime industry, including the C. Alvin Bertel Award, the Governor's Lantern Award from Governor Dave Treen, and special recognition from former Alabama governor, Fob James, for overseeing the construction of the most modern barge-building plant in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bergeron was a parishioner of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos Catholic Church in New Orleans and served on the church's pastoral council; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bergeron will be best remembered for his contributions to the maritime industry and for his infectious personality; he was a humble man who displayed an unwavering commitment to his family and friends; and

WHEREAS, William Thomas "Bill" Bergeron leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife, Mary "Joyce" Holcombe Bergeron; his daughter, Tiffany Bergeron Cook, and her husband Brian; his grandchildren, William "Wil" Scott Cook and Emily Taylor Cook; his brothers, Roland Joseph "Jady" Bergeron, III, and his wife Linda, and Todd Allen Bergeron, and his wife Cheryl; and numerous nieces, nephews, and other extended family members and friends; he will be deeply missed, but his legacy will certainly not be forgotten.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of William Thomas "Bill" Bergeron; does hereby acknowledge Mr. Bergeron's incredible contributions to the Louisiana maritime industry and the health of the Louisiana economy; and does hereby extend sincere hopes and wishes that his family find comfort during this difficult time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of William Thomas Bergeron.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES