

1 WHEREAS, while many small-town weekly newspapers closed or drastically
2 reduced their sizes over the past half-century, *The Jena Times* continued to grow under
3 Sammy's stalwart leadership; and

4 WHEREAS, in keeping with Sammy's belief that in order to have a successful
5 newspaper, the publisher and editor must become a part of the community that the paper
6 serves, he was actively involved in many church and civic clubs and organizations; and

7 WHEREAS, he helped organize the Jena Jaycees, which held the first Howdy
8 Neighbor Day; was an active member of the Jena Kiwanis Club; served a term on the Jena
9 Town Council, and as chairman of various committees and boards, including the LaSalle
10 Parish Library and LaSalle Parish Ambulance Board; spearheaded many other community
11 initiatives, including the first-ever Jena Nighttime Christmas Parade, first-ever outdoor Jena
12 High School graduation ceremony, and Jena Dixie Youth Baseball; and was instrumental in
13 various businesses deciding to locate in LaSalle Parish; and

14 WHEREAS, Sammy consistently promoted academics and athletics both in his
15 newspaper and as an avid fan, with his generous donations and involvement still positively
16 affecting young peoples' lives today; and

17 WHEREAS, his life revolved around his Savior, Jesus Christ, his family, his
18 newspaper, and doing everything he could for the betterment of LaSalle Parish; and

19 WHEREAS, Sammy was a long-time member of Temple Baptist Church, then
20 Midway Baptist Church, and served in various roles, including deacon, music minister, and
21 treasurer; and

22 WHEREAS, he loved old-time, four-part harmony Gospel music; at one time lending
23 his talents to a Gospel music group that sang in the area; and

24 WHEREAS, Sammy was a great fan of George Jones and loved to play his music and
25 sing to family and employees of his newspaper, brightening the day of all who were gifted
26 with his performance; and

27 WHEREAS, he was an extraordinary husband, father, grandfather, and friend, who
28 is survived by his loving wife of forty-one years, Bonita Francis Franklin; daughters, Penny
29 Justus and Ashley Keene, and her husband Dustin; four sons, Glen Franklin, Craig Franklin,
30 and his wife Kim, Scott Franklin, and his wife Jamie, and Charlie Franklin, and his wife

1 Marissa; eighteen grandchildren; fourteen great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and
2 nephews; and a host of other family and friends; and

3 WHEREAS, the memory of Sammy J. Franklin will always remain in the hearts of
4 his family and friends who will forever reap the benefits of his lifetime of achievement; and

5 WHEREAS, Sammy represented all that is good about Louisiana as a man with
6 unique gifts and a charitable spirit, and with his passing, this state has lost one of its finest
7 citizens who left an indelible mark on the lives of the many individuals whom he touched
8 with his truly inspiring qualities and generosity, and he is now terribly missed but will never
9 be forgotten.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
11 extend its sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family of Sammy J. Franklin upon the
12 occasion of his death, does hereby express its appreciation for Sammy J. Franklin's enduring
13 contributions, which shall long continue to be a source of deep honor for the town of Jena,
14 LaSalle Parish, and the state of Louisiana, and does hereby pay tribute to his remarkable
15 legacy, which shall live long in the hearts of those who were touched by his humanity.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
17 family of Sammy J. Franklin.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 59 Original

2022 Regular Session

Firment

Expresses the condolences of the legislature on the death of Sammy J. Franklin.