

2025 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 56

BY SENATOR HENRY AND REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN

CONDOLENCES. Expresses the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of Robert Winfred Merrick and honors his life, legacy, and contributions to Louisiana.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of Robert Winfred Merrick and to honor his life, legacy, and numerous contributions to Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that the legislature has learned of the passing of Robert "Bob" Winfred Merrick on April 28, 2025, at the age of eighty; and

WHEREAS, Merrick was born in August of 1944, in New Orleans, Louisiana, and became a beloved civic leader, philanthropist, keen fly fisherman, husband, father, stepfather, grandfather, and great-grandfather; and

WHEREAS, Merrick was known for embodying the culture and grit of his hometown and for his zest for life and unwavering commitment to Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Merrick attended Sam Barthe Elementary School, St. Martin's Episcopal High School, and Tulane University, where he formed lasting friendships creating a foundation for his illustrious career; and

WHEREAS, Merrick was known for his commitment to making New Orleans a better place; he dedicated countless hours and significant resources to philanthropic endeavors, including generous donations to the American Red Cross, University of New Orleans, Ochsner Health System, MD Anderson, Boy Scouts of Southeast Louisiana, Son

1 of a Saint, Ruth Fertel Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, Fore Kids Foundation, Junior
2 Achievement of Greater New Orleans, the United Way of Southeast Louisiana, the National
3 WWII Museum, March of Dimes, St. Martin's Episcopal School, and Isidore Newman
4 School; and

5 WHEREAS, Merrick was honored to be the first person in the state of Louisiana to
6 give over one million dollars to both the United Way of Southeast Louisiana and the
7 American Red Cross; and

8 WHEREAS, in recognition of his lifetime of generosity, Merrick has been honored
9 with The National Red Cross Humanitarian of the Year Award, The University of New
10 Orleans Chancellors Medallion for Distinguished Service, The New Orleans Council for
11 Community & Justice's Weiss Award, Mobil Oil Company "Strategic Partner of the Year",
12 Gambit's New Orleanian of the Year, The Alexis de Tocqueville Lifetime Achievement
13 Award from United Way, and the prestigious Times-Picayune Loving Cup; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1986, Merrick purchased Latter & Blum, Inc./Realtors one of the
15 largest and oldest, full-service real estate companies in Louisiana; and was appointed in
16 October of 1988 to serve as a member of the Real Estate Appraisal Subcommittee of the
17 Louisiana Real Estate Commission; and

18 WHEREAS, Merrick later acquired numerous real estate brokerage firms, including
19 C.J. Brown Realtors in Baton Rouge (1995), Noles Frye Realty in Alexandria (2009), Van
20 Eaton & Romeo in Lafayette (2012), and Realty Associates in Houston, Texas (2015),
21 growing Latter and Blum into one of the largest and most successful full-service real estate
22 firms in the Gulf South before selling it to Compass Real Estate; and

23 WHEREAS, throughout his life, Merrick formed countless friendships with the
24 employees and agents of his "other family" - the Latter and Blum/Compass group; and

25 WHEREAS, possessing a wicked sense of humor, Merrick had an uncanny ability
26 to connect with people from all walks of life, enriching the world around him with love,
27 laughter and generosity; and

28 WHEREAS, he was an avid lover of the outdoors, finding immense joy in stalking
29 wild turkey, fly fishing the saltwater flats of Mexico, and appreciating the beauty of nature;
30 and

1 WHEREAS, Merrick leaves behind not only a legacy of philanthropy and leadership,
2 but also a profound impact on the hearts of those who knew him; and

3 WHEREAS, Merrick is survived by his beloved wife, Sheryl; sisters, Patricia
4 Merrick Brinson and Susan Merrick; daughters, Elizabeth Merrick, Christine Merrick
5 Stewart, Amanda Merrick Seale, and Lacey Merrick Conway; stepson, Justin Duplantis;
6 grandchildren, Taylor Ghere Smith, Laney Ghere Marion, Lillian Andersson, Merrick
7 Andersson, Henry Andersson, Tatem Seale, Alexander Seale, Merrick Seale, Olivia Conway,
8 and Hunter Conway; and, step-grandchildren, Braden Wheat, Timoth  Duplantis, and Chloe
9 Duplantis - all of whom he loved dearly; and

10 WHEREAS, Merrick, a true son of New Orleans, left this world a much better place
11 than he found it.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
13 extend its sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Robert "Bob"
14 Winfred Merrick and further honors and celebrates his remarkable life and legacy.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his
16 wife, Sheryl Merrick and to his daughters, Elizabeth Merrick, Christine Merrick Stewart,
17 Amanda Merrick Seale, and Lacey Merrick Conway.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services.
The keyword, summary, 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)]

	DIGEST	
SCR 56 Original	2025 Regular Session	Henry
Expresses sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Robert "Bob" Winfred Merrick and honors and celebrates his remarkable life and legacy.		