

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 135

BY SENATOR KLEINPETER

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Kathleen "Kathy" Sessums and to honor her life, legacy, and extraordinary contributions to the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it is with deep sorrow that the members of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the passing of Kathleen "Kathy" Sessums on April 22, 2026, at the age of sixty-eight, following a long and courageous battle with cancer; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Sessums was born on August 4, 1957, and raised in Shreveport, Louisiana, where she began a life defined by dedication, resilience, and compassion; and

WHEREAS, at the young age of thirteen, she met the love of her life, John Thomas Sessums, and their enduring bond led to their marriage in 1974 that spanned fifty-two years; serving as a testament to love, commitment, and partnership; and

WHEREAS, together they built a strong and loving family, welcoming twin sons and creating a home centered on devotion, support, and shared joy; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Sessums was a devoted wife, mother, and "Mimi", whose greatest happiness was found spending time with her children, grandchildren, beloved dogs, and the many friends who she considered family; and

WHEREAS, whether enjoying weekends in Florida or on the river, she cherished time on the water surrounded by loved ones, creating lasting memories that will be treasured for generations; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Sessums will be remembered for her strength, intelligence, warmth, and the deep and abiding love she extended to all who knew her; and

WHEREAS, her professional life was marked by an extraordinary forty-six year career in public service with the state of Louisiana, beginning in 1978, during which she played a pivotal role in transforming state government information systems; and

WHEREAS, starting in a clerical position, her exceptional abilities were quickly recognized as she advanced through determination and hard work to become an agency

accountant within the Department of Health and Human Resources, now known as the Louisiana Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, throughout her career, she assumed numerous leadership roles and responsibilities, demonstrating unmatched analytical reasoning and a remarkable near-photographic memory that distinguished her among her peers; and

WHEREAS, Kathy led the development of the state's first cost allocation system at the Louisiana Department of Health, establishing a critical foundation that continues to guide statewide financial operations and resource management; and

WHEREAS, her expertise and vision culminated in her appointment as director of Louisiana's Enterprise Resource Planning system, LaGov, where she oversaw the implementation of a comprehensive, statewide system integrating accounting, finance, budgeting, procurement, payroll, inventory, capital projects, travel, training, and grant services; and

WHEREAS, throughout Kathy's leadership, LaGov replaced outdated and siloed systems, modernized state operations, and generated millions of dollars in taxpayer savings, becoming an essential component of Louisiana's governmental infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Sessums worked tirelessly with agencies across the state to unify systems and improve efficiency, leaving an indelible mark on the operations of state government and the lives of Louisiana's citizens; and

WHEREAS, her dedication, mentorship, and leadership profoundly influenced colleagues and employees, many of whom benefited from her guidance and unwavering commitment to excellence; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her distinguished service, she was awarded the "Charles E. Dunbar, Jr. Career Civil Service Award" in 2022, the highest honor bestowed upon classified state employees, a testament to her outstanding contributions to the people of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, she is survived by her beloved husband, John Thomas Sessums; her sons, Brady Sessums and his wife Cinclare Sessums, and Casey Sessums and his wife Rebecca Sessums; and her cherished grandchildren, Elizabeth Sessums, John Brady Sessums Jr., "JB", Marcelle Sessums, and Thomas Sessums; and

WHEREAS, while her passing leaves a profound void, her legacy endures through her family, her contributions to public service, and the countless lives she touched with her kindness, wisdom, and generosity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Kathleen "Kathy" Sessums and does honor and celebrate her remarkable life and enduring legacy of service, love, and leadership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Kathleen "Kathy" Sessums as an expression of the Senate's sympathy and respect.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE