

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 7

BY REPRESENTATIVE BADON

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences upon the death of Alec Gifford

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana  
3 upon the death of Alec Gifford, a longtime news reporter anchor in the New Orleans  
4 area, and to memorialize his profound impact upon the lives of all those who  
5 watched him and received their news from him throughout his five decades in  
6 television journalism.

7 WHEREAS, it is with deep sorrow and much regret that the members of the  
8 Louisiana House of Representatives have learned of the death of beloved newsman Alec  
9 Gifford, at the age of eighty-five; and

10 WHEREAS, it is fitting to recognize and record for posterity the many achievements  
11 and significant contributions of Alec Gifford; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Gifford's father, Alexander Gifford, was a political reporter for the  
13 *Times-Picayune*, and his great-grandfather, Numa Dufour, published the French-language  
14 newspaper *L'Abeille de la Nouvelle-Orleans* in New Orleans; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Gifford was a graduate of Jesuit High School, enlisted in the United  
16 States Navy at age seventeen, and attended college at Johns Hopkins University; and

17 WHEREAS, after working at radio stations, Mr. Gifford joined the staff of WDSU  
18 TV, the New Orleans NBC affiliate in 1955, after being recognized by Bill Monroe, the  
19 station's first news director; and

1           WHEREAS, in 1966, Mr. Gifford joined the NBC News national team in New York,  
2 where he worked for one year before returning home to New Orleans as news director,  
3 anchor, and reporter at WVUE; and

4           WHEREAS, Mr. Gifford returned to his beloved WDSU in 1980 and continued to  
5 serve there as an anchor and news director for many years until his retirement in 2006; and

6           WHEREAS, Mr. Gifford built a very loyal audience through his openness, honesty,  
7 and candor; and

8           WHEREAS, Mr. Gifford covered the presidential campaign of then-Senator John F.  
9 Kennedy and was largely credited for introducing Senator Kennedy to New Orleans voters;  
10 and

11           WHEREAS, Mr. Gifford worked alongside other pioneers in the business, including  
12 Mel Leavitt and Nash Roberts, and hired many who would become local icons, such as  
13 investigative reporter Richie Angelico and anchor Norman Robinson; and

14           WHEREAS, Mr. Gifford retired from WDSU in December 2006 after being on the  
15 air and behind the scenes for over fifty years; and

16           WHEREAS, throughout his extensive career, Mr. Gifford covered all of the major  
17 news stories in Louisiana from Hurricanes Betsy and Katrina to numerous political scandals;  
18 and

19           WHEREAS, Mr. Gifford will be remembered by his colleagues as a wonderful  
20 teacher, a patient and loving mentor, and a gifted role model; and

21           WHEREAS, Mr. Gifford is survived by his wife, Dolores, sons Nathan Gifford and  
22 Russell Gifford, daughters Edie Deegan, Rena Bonin, and Elise Gifford, ten grandchildren,  
23 and six great-grandchildren; and

24           WHEREAS, Mr. Gifford will be truly missed by the members and journalists of the  
25 television news business, many of whom were blessed to call him a friend, and he will  
26 always be remembered fondly for the genuine interest and regard he exhibited for those with  
27 whom he worked and for the diligent, consistent manner in which he provided invaluable  
28 news and information to the New Orleans area day after day, year after year; and

29           WHEREAS, Mr. Gifford has left an indelible mark on the minds and hearts of the  
30 many citizens whose lives he touched; and

1           WHEREAS, the death of Mr. Gifford has left a tremendous void in his community  
2 and has created a genuine sense of sorrow in the many individuals who mourn the loss of  
3 this wonderful gentleman whose memory shall forever remain alive in their minds and  
4 hearts; and

5           WHEREAS, the debt of the people of Louisiana to Alec Gifford is indeed great, for  
6 he touched the lives of not only those fortunate enough to have known him but of all those  
7 who grew up watching and listening to him on television and who feel the lasting impact of  
8 his legacy.

9           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the House of Representatives  
10 of the Legislature of Louisiana do hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the  
11 death of Alec Gifford, who served as a renowned journalist in the New Orleans area for over  
12 fifty years, do hereby recognize and record for posterity his significant contributions, his  
13 outstanding abilities, and his generosity and kindness, and do hereby express the deep regret  
14 of the entire state upon the loss of this extraordinary gentleman.

15           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
16 to the family of Mr. Alec Gifford.

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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)]

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HR No. 7

Expresses condolences upon the death of former news anchor Alec Gifford of New Orleans.