

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARTER AND SENATORS ADLEY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD, AND WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of former state representative

Kevin P. Reilly, Sr., of Baton Rouge.

WHEREAS, it was with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Louisiana Legislature learned of the death of their friend and former colleague, Kevin P. Reilly, Sr., on Sunday, October 28, 2012, at the age of eighty-four; and

WHEREAS, Kevin P. Reilly, Sr., was widely respected, admired, and beloved as a businessman, political leader, and philanthropist; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reilly was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and attended the Roxbury Latin School and Harvard University, where he played varsity baseball and was voted most valuable player his senior year; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Harvard, Mr. Reilly served honorably for three years as a lieutenant in the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, from 1972 until 1988, Mr. Reilly served four highly effective terms as a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, and he used every opportunity as an able and productive legislator to serve his constituency in East Baton Rouge Parish and the citizens of the state of Louisiana in an honorable and dedicated manner; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reilly steadfastly endeavored to improve the welfare of his fellow citizens, and his legislative accomplishments were numerous; he served with great diligence as chairman of the powerful House Committee on Appropriations for many years of his tenure in the legislature; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reilly was one of the reform-minded legislators known as the "Young Turks", supporting and sponsoring changes in state government that continue to benefit citizens today, and his leadership earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, one of Mr. Reilly's proudest legislative accomplishments was the creation of a public trust fund, commonly known as 8g, which permanently dedicated the proceeds from an oil and gas royalty settlement from the federal government for the benefit of education; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, Mr. Reilly was asked by Governor Edwin Edwards to serve as secretary of the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, a position he held for nine years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reilly was not only known for his public service but for his work and contributions in the private sector as the chief executive officer and chairman of Lamar Advertising, a position he held until 1989; and

WHEREAS, under his highly effective and productive leadership, the company became one of the largest outdoor advertising companies in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reilly was also widely respected as a philanthropist, giving selflessly to countless charities and nonprofits, including the Baton Rouge Speech and Hearing Foundation, Pennington Biomedical Research Foundation, Louisiana Resource Center for Educators, and O'Brien House; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reilly's tremendous philanthropic efforts led to the establishment of the Reilly Family Foundation, which directs charitable donations to organizations both in Baton Rouge and around the country; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reilly was recognized by numerous organizations over the years, including receiving the 1985 Volunteers of America Distinguished Service Award, being named the *Baton Rouge Business Report* Executive of the Year in 1990, and receiving the 2007 Louisiana Public Broadcasting Louisiana Legend Award; and

WHEREAS, as a symbol of their devotion to education, Mr. Reilly and his wife both received honorary doctorates from Louisiana State University (LSU) in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reilly's children established the Kevin P. Reilly, Sr., Chair of Political Communications at the LSU's Manship School of Mass Communications, which

eventually led to the establishment of the Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs, the only research center in the country focused on studying the media and public affairs; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reilly was preceded in death by his parents, Molly and Gene Reilly, and his brother, Brendan Reilly; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reilly is survived by his loving wife of sixty years, Ann Switzer (DeeDee) Reilly; four children, Kevin, Jr. (Winifred), Wendell (Mary), Sean (Jennifer), and Anna Cullinan (Matthew); eleven grandchildren; and his siblings, Elizabeth Moynihan and Gene Reilly; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reilly was the kind of citizen who represents what is good about Louisiana, a man of wisdom who used his talents, integrity, and passion for his state to change Louisiana for the better; and

WHEREAS, the death of Mr. Reilly has left a great void and created a genuine sense of sorrow in all who knew him, including the members of the legislative family, all of whom mourn the loss of this wonderful man who served his adopted home state and this institution with distinction, integrity, and statesmanship; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reilly leaves behind a rich and unique legacy and is greatly missed by all whose lives he touched through his commitment to public service and philanthropy and his dedication to his fellow citizens.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of former state representative Kevin P. Reilly, Sr., and does hereby record for posterity the enduring appreciation of the citizens of Louisiana for his outstanding contributions and achievements, particularly during his sixteen-year tenure as a distinguished member of the Louisiana House of Representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Kevin P. Reilly, Sr.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE