

1 WHEREAS, from his position in the front office, and in imitation of his father's
2 public service, Mike began stepping out beyond the oyster and seafood processing business
3 and into a more public arena where he eventually became the face and voice of the Louisiana
4 seafood industry and grew into one of the strongest advocates for the Gulf of Mexico
5 seafood industry throughout the nation; and

6 WHEREAS, in his efforts to step out beyond just his own personal business, Mike
7 Voisin served on and chaired many other seafood related entities, including the Louisiana
8 Oyster Dealers and Growers Association, the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation,
9 the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference, the Louisiana Restaurant Association, the
10 Southeastern Fisheries Association, the Louisiana Seafood Processors Council, the Gulf
11 Oyster Industry Council, the National Fisheries Institute, and the Molluscan Shellfish
12 Institute of North America; and

13 WHEREAS, Mike also was called upon to serve his state, his industry, and his region
14 through participation on governmental entities supportive of the seafood industry and in
15 doing so, he was instrumental in the creation of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and
16 Marketing Board, for which he served as the original chairman; he helped create the
17 Louisiana Oyster Task Force to bolster specifically the oyster industry within the larger Gulf
18 seafood industry and to enable oyster industry unity and communications; he also served on
19 the National Fish and Seafood Promotion Council, the National Shellfish Pollution Indicator
20 Program, the Louisiana Oyster Lease Damage Evaluation Board, and Governor's Advisory
21 Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration, and Conservation, and most recently, he
22 was appointed by Governor Bobby Jindal to serve on the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries
23 Commission where he was serving as vice chair at the time of his death; and

24 WHEREAS, in addition to service to the seafood industry of Louisiana, the Gulf
25 states, and the nation, Mike was active in his service to the city of Houma and Terrebonne
26 Parish where he served on the Terrebonne Parish Economic Development Authority, the
27 Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce, the South Louisiana Economic Council, the
28 Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, and served for many years on, and as chair
29 of, the Terrebonne General Medical Center Board of Commissioners, serving once again as
30 chair at the time of his death; and

1 WHEREAS, Mike was also active in the academic community where he served as
2 a board member for the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, was on the LSU Marine
3 and Coastal Fisheries Advisory Board, was an advisory member for the Nicholls State
4 University College of Business and for the John Folse Culinary School at Nicholls State, and
5 in December of 2012, Mike was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Commerce from Nicholls
6 State University in recognition of his efforts as ". . . an industry leader, working closely with
7 academics, local and state legislators, governors, congressional members and White House
8 officials."; and

9 WHEREAS, Mike was also a strong and active leader in his life in the Church of
10 Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, where he served in many capacities, including Bishop
11 of the Thibodaux congregation from 1996 through 2001, Branch President for the Larose
12 Branch from 2005 to 2006, Stake High Councilor from 2006 to 2007, and most recently as
13 High Priest Group Leader; and

14 WHEREAS, although Mike was definitely "the man in the arena", always stepping
15 forward to actively confront "challenges" rather than wait for someone else to rise to the
16 occasion, he will be remembered more for the type of man that he was, a gentle man; a
17 caring friend and partner; a strong but calm man particularly in the face of acrimony and
18 controversy; a passionate man, passionate about his family, about his industry, about his
19 state, and about his friends; he was a man respected and honored by the many, many people
20 with whom he came into contact; a man trusted for his word and the fact that he was never
21 underhanded or deceitful in his dealings with other people, even people of differing
22 perspectives; and

23 WHEREAS, Mike was always the first person to step up to help other people, people
24 in his industry, in his state, and just people who needed help; not only did Mike step forward
25 to represent and promote the seafood and oyster industries and to work tirelessly for disaster
26 recovery assistance and need recognition in the state of Louisiana but he reached out to those
27 industries in other states because he genuinely believed that working together they would
28 be more successful than working separately or in competition and in furtherance of that
29 principle, Mike instituted an annual trip to Washington, D.C., coordinated by the Gulf Oyster
30 Industry Council, dubbed "Walk the Hill" where members of the Gulf oyster industry spent
31 a week meeting with members of congress and congressional aides to discuss the state of the

1 oyster industry and the needs of the industry, and, of course, to share in the enjoyment of the
2 oyster product; and

3 WHEREAS, Mike was not only giving to his industry he was also, through his
4 church, very active in disaster recovery efforts on an individual basis through church mission
5 work in the cleaning and rebuilding of peoples homes lost or damaged by hurricanes; and

6 WHEREAS, Mike was well-known and well respected across the state, the Gulf
7 region, and across the country for his calm but passionate and insistent voice on behalf of
8 the state and industry that he loved and gave so much to, so well-known and respected that
9 people came from all over the country to his funeral in Houma to show their respect and to
10 share with each other their stories and their memories, including their overall assessment that
11 Mike's passing leaves a huge void and that Mike's shoes will be very difficult shoes to fill,
12 that it will take several people to even start to attend to the many, many things that Mike did
13 so readily and so happily during his life.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
15 express its condolences upon the untimely and unexpected death of Michael Christopher
16 Voisin from Houma, Louisiana, advocate and spokesperson for the Louisiana seafood
17 industry and the coastal fishing community.

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)]

Dove

HCR No. 92

Expresses the condolences of the legislature upon the death of Michael Christopher Voisin from Houma, La., advocate and spokesperson for the La. oyster and seafood industries and the coastal fishing community.