

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 162

BY SENATORS PETERSON, 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, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of David R. Voelker.

WHEREAS, born May 13, 1953, David Voelker was a native of Lake Providence, Louisiana, to Frank Voelker Jr., and Virginia Wilson Voelker, and spent his adult life in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, his numerous and successful community endeavors included support to the Academy of Sacred Heart, Stone Energy, Children's Hospital, Xavier University, Tulane University Health Sciences Center, The Good Shepherd School, and the University of New Orleans Foundation; and

WHEREAS, David Voelker, an investment banker by trade, was appointed in 2006 by Governor Kathleen Blanco, to chair the Louisiana Recovery Authority dedicated to rebuilding Louisiana in the wake of Hurricane Katrina's devastation, and became known as the "great saint of Louisiana's recovery"; and

WHEREAS, he was active in a variety of nonprofit boards in the New Orleans metro area, and a prolific political contributor, favoring national republican party causes, but also contributed to numerous state and federal democratic politicians and directives; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 Mr. Voelker brokered an agreement, leading to New Orleans and the state creating a fund with more than two million dollars to pay for a civil rights judgment that threatened to bankrupt the Orleans parish district attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Voelker was a man with an extraordinary character, described as extremely jovial and generous, and focused on the improvement of humanity; and

WHEREAS, Nick Mueller, president of the National World War II Museum, referred to Mr. Voelker as a strong Museum board chairman, who led the charge when the Museum

was in crisis, and assisted to expand the Museum's rebuilding efforts; and

WHEREAS, among the numerous projects attached to his generosity is the Miracle League, a baseball organization at Audubon Park for children with special needs that now has more than two hundred and fifty participants and growing; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Voelker helped the League to raise private funds, along with getting the Audubon Institute to donate land for a customized field, allowing the children to watch, play, and experience special outings with their family and community; and

WHEREAS, described as a compassionate man by Jefferson Parish Attorney Paul Connick, Mr. Voelker was referred to as a man who always answered a needed call; and

WHEREAS, in addition to community and state efforts, Mr. Voelker was known by many whom he helped receive healthcare assistance, school tuition, and support in identifying and retaining reliable jobs; and

WHEREAS, close friend Boysie Bollinger said, "David would be most proud of the Legacy Foundation he created, allowing residents to indicate their wish to be an organ donor by signing the back of their Louisiana driver's license", a concept since exported to other states; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Voelker is survived and will be dearly missed by his wife Richelle Voelker, his three daughters, Mullady, Audrey and Kitty Voelker, and their mother Ann Donnelly Stuart, a stepson Stephen Crow and stepdaughter Lisa Crow; two brothers, Frank Voelker and George Voelker; three sisters, Mullady Crigler, Mary Clauss, and Kitty Mattesky, and Dr. Marie Budev, Dr. Rafid Fadul, Dr. Mladen Golubik, and the staff of the Cleveland Clinic Wellness Institute.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express the sincere condolences upon the death of David R. Voelker.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of David R. Voelker and the doctors and staff of the Cleveland Clinic Wellness Institute.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE