

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 177

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Robert L. "Buck" Kleinpeter.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and a profound sense of sadness that the citizens of Louisiana and the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the death of Robert L. "Buck" Kleinpeter, on May 18, 2013, at the age of eighty-eight; and

WHEREAS, it is only fitting to recognize and record for posterity the unique and wonderful legacy that is left by Buck Kleinpeter; and

WHEREAS, Buck Kleinpeter was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on September 28, 1924, the son of George Buffington Kleinpeter and Ethel McDaniel Kleinpeter; and

WHEREAS, his studies at Louisiana State University were interrupted by his service in World War II, where he served in the Army Air Corps in the Aleutians, India, China and the South Pacific theaters flying bombing missions as a tail gunner; and

WHEREAS, after he returned home from the war, he finished his undergraduate studies at Louisiana State University and received his law degree in 1950 from LSU Law Center, where he was a member of Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity and editor of the Law Review; and

WHEREAS, after graduation from law school, he graduated from the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, and served as a special agent where he was assigned to the Los Angeles field office and received numerous accolades and commendations for his field work; and

WHEREAS, during this time he married his wife, Rachel Williams Kleinpeter, and in 1952, they returned to Baton Rouge to raise their children, Melanie Anne Kleinpeter and Robert Loren Kleinpeter, both of whom also became lawyers and practiced law with their father; and

WHEREAS, Buck began his private practice of law in Baton Rouge in 1952 and continued in the active practice of law until 2007; and

WHEREAS, he was actively engaged in the service of the legal field outside of his trial practice, which was legendary, and he was a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, a fellow of the International Society of Barristers, a sustaining member of the American Judicature Society, a longtime member of the International Association of Defense Counsel, a member of the Defense Research Institute and National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys; and

WHEREAS, he served on the Advisory Committee of the Louisiana Law Institute for the Revision of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and as a member of the Permanent Committee of the Continuous Revision of the Code of Criminal Procedure, Louisiana Law Institute; and

WHEREAS, for many years he was an adjunct professor of law at LSU Law School in the areas of criminal law, criminal procedure and trial practice; and

WHEREAS, he was admitted to practice in all state and federal courts in Louisiana as well as the U. S. Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Buck was deeply involved in the American Legion, where he was a Life Member of the Nicholson Post No. 38, where he served on the executive and legal committees for twelve years as well as the Istrouma and Fairfields Lodges; and

WHEREAS, he received his Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason Degrees at Istrouma Lodge No. 414, F. & A.M. 1946 and afterwards was a Charter Member of Fairfields Lodge No. 425, F. & A.M., where he was a Past Master; and

WHEREAS, he also served the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana, F. & A.M. as Grand Senior Deacon, Grand Attorney, Grand Junior Warden, Grand Senior Warden, Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Master as well as numerous other Masonic affiliations; and

WHEREAS, Buck believed deeply in giving back to the community of Baton Rouge that had given him so much, he was a member of Paul Harris fellow of the Baton Rouge Rotary Club, served on the boards of the Girl Scouts of America, Junior Achievement, and the Istrouma Area Council of Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, Buck Kleinpeter was a loving and dedicated husband to his wife of

sixty-two years Rachel Williams Kleinpeter, a cherished father to his daughter Melanie and her husband David and his son Loren and his wife Rachel, and a devoted grandfather to his grandchildren Clayton, Alden, Regan, Peter, Brett, Brandyi, and great-granddaughter, Adler; and

WHEREAS, the Baton Rouge legal community was made a better place for the outstanding trial work and impeccable legal ethics of Buck Kleinpeter and the love that he had for his community, state and country was noticeable in his work, and a tremendous loss will be felt by all that were honored to have known him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Robert L. "Buck" Kleinpeter, does hereby recognize his outstanding achievements and singular contributions to the community and the legal profession and to the state of Louisiana, and does hereby record for posterity his extraordinary talents, gifts and abilities, and does express appreciation for his enduring legacy that will continue as a source of pride and honor for his family and friends, his community, and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Robert L. " Buck" Kleinpeter.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE