

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOWARD

A RESOLUTION

To commend G.J. "Pie" Martinez, the current mayor of Zwolle, Louisiana, on the prestigious honor of being named the 2014 Sabine Hall of Fame inductee.

WHEREAS, G.J. "Pie" Martinez was born on December 11, 1940, in Shreveport, Louisiana, to the late G.L. and Catherine Sepulvado Martinez; he was the oldest of three brothers and one sister, and received his nickname of "Sweetie Pie" at an early age, which was eventually shortened to "Pie"; and

WHEREAS, G.J. "Pie" Martinez is a 1958 honors graduate of Zwolle High School, where he lettered in basketball all four seasons and was voted "most popular" and "Mr. Zwolle High" by his classmates; and

WHEREAS, following high school graduation, G.J. "Pie" Martinez attended Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana, before enrolling at Spencer Draughon Business School in Shreveport, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, while being enrolled in school, G.J. "Pie" Martinez worked part time for Wonder Bread and his father's timber business, G.L. Martinez Poling and Piling Company, which made an impression on his life; and

WHEREAS, G.J. "Pie" Martinez married Agatha Sepulvado in 1961, and they are the parents of four children, grandparents of fourteen grandchildren, and one great-grandson with another on the way, three step-grandchildren, and four step-great-grandchildren with one on the way; and

WHEREAS, Martinez constantly desired to help others and worked to overcome any obstacle that he and others in his community encountered; and

WHEREAS, Martinez began his career in the 1950s and continuously strived to keep his knowledge current in the face of changes that he witnessed firsthand, such as the

replacement of mules and horses by farm tractors with water-filled tires, log hog tractors, and various models of John Deere skidders; and

WHEREAS, in 1961, G.J. "Pie" Martinez became foreman for a handpole peeling crew for International Paper Co. located in Zwolle and also made selections of poles to be cut, which was a specialized job; and

WHEREAS, because his hard work and dedication to International Paper Co. was evident, the company moved him to supervise a fence post peeling operation in 1962; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, Martinez returned to his father's business, whereupon, after an accident in the woods, he unfortunately lost sight in his left eye; a tragedy that took Martinez and his family through hard times, but with G.J. "Pie" Martinez's faith and perseverance, he overcame that obstacle and became a stronger man because of it; and

WHEREAS, Martinez has been labeled as a distinctive leader in his community because of the help he offers to others and the support he gives to many fundraisers, youth sports teams, the Easter Seals, and blood drives; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Martinez has had key roles in many aspects of politics in Sabine Parish; he was instrumental in giving disabled people the opportunity to drive a tractor-trailer rig in Louisiana, he helped with the revision of laws in moving logging equipment, he served on a number of boards in Sabine Parish, and was appointed to the Advisory Board for the Louisiana Technical College – Sabine Valley Campus, where he continues to serve today; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Martinez was honored as one of Louisiana's Northwest Loggers of the Year; in 1992, he was awarded the Outstanding Community Service Award by the Sabine Parish Chamber of Commerce; in 1993, he was named to Who's Who in Leading American Executives and appointed as a trustee of Sabine Medical Center; in 1994, he was asked to serve on the Advisory Board for Peoples State Bank and received the Diocesan Medal for Service at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Zwolle; and

WHEREAS, G.J. "Pie" Martinez is an active and devoted parishioner at St. Joseph's Church, where he is a trustee, Eucharistic minister, and a member of the finance and pastoral councils; and

WHEREAS, because of Martinez's hard work and knowledge in logging and forestry, he helped establish the Zwolle Logging and Forestry Festival, which will celebrate its

nineteenth year in May of 2014; he also helped the town of Zwolle purchase and develop the festival grounds; and

WHEREAS, G.J. "Pie" Martinez spent fifty-five years in the logging business, from which he retired in 2002; he holds the honor of being named Area Outstanding Logger and was presented the Director Emeritus Award from the Louisiana Forestry Association; in 2007, he was inducted into the Louisiana Loggers' Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, G.J. "Pie" Martinez decided to run for Mayor of Zwolle and is in the position that he currently holds, because he loves serving and working for the betterment of his hometown.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend G.J. "Pie" Martinez on being named the seventeenth inductee into the Sabine Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to G.J. "Pie" Martinez.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES