

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 51

BY SENATORS ALLAIN, ADLEY, ALARIO, 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 AND REPRESENTATIVE BARRAS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Louisiana statesman, The Honorable Patrick T. Caffery Sr., and to recognize his years of service to the Legislature of Louisiana, the Congress of the United States, and the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it is with great sadness that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing of Congressman Pat Caffery of New Iberia, a distinguished gentleman, renowned attorney, civic leader, and former member of the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors, on December 17, 2013, at the age of eighty-one; and

WHEREAS, Pat Caffery was a renaissance man of unique talents, intelligence, and curiosity, who, through diligence and hard work, had experienced great success in public life and was blessed with the thoughtful demeanor of a true southern gentleman; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Thomson Caffery was born on July 6, 1932, at Haifleigh Plantation in St. Mary Parish, to parents Ralph Earl and Letitia Decuir Caffery; he was a favorite son of Louisiana and perhaps even destined to legislative service, in that, he was the grandson of former United States Senator Donelson Caffery; and

WHEREAS, reared in Franklin, he enrolled in Southwestern Louisiana Institute, now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, attended on a music scholarship for trumpet, was elected student body president, and received the saber award as outstanding third-year cadet in the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC); and

WHEREAS, Pat Caffery was an enthusiastic disciple of jurisprudence; he earned his

law degree from Louisiana State University Law Center; and while in law school, he served in the prestigious position of managing editor of the Louisiana Law Review for 1955-56; and

WHEREAS, after passing the bar, Pat Caffery joined the New Iberia law firm of Helm, Simon, Caffery and Duhe and later established the firm of Caffery, Duhe and Davis with partners John M. Duhe Jr. and Eugene Davis; and

WHEREAS, Caffery served as an assistant district attorney for the Sixteenth Judicial District from 1958 until 1962; later in 1964, he was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives and served one term with committee assignments to House committees on Contingent Expense, Judiciary C, and Ways and Means; and

WHEREAS, he was elected to the United States Congress in 1968, representing Louisiana District Three during the Ninety-first and Ninety-second Congress and serving on the Public Works committee, until he did not seek reelection in 1973; and

WHEREAS, after leaving Capitol Hill, Pat Caffery returned to New Iberia and immersed himself in the practice of law, art and music appreciation, and continued community service to the citizenry of Iberia Parish; and

WHEREAS, as a talented musician, he had an avid interest in the history and culture of music, especially jazz and jazz musicians like Bunk Johnson, a New Iberia native; he was also involved with the Iberia Community Band; and

WHEREAS, his philanthropy was boundless and he had longtime service as both member and officer of the New Iberia Community Chest, the New Iberia United Givers Fund, the Iberia Crippled Children's Association, the Iberia District of the Boy Scouts of America, the Rotary Club, and the Catholic High School Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, he received many accolades during his prestigious career that included receipt of the New Iberia Jaycees' Distinguished Service award and the Distinguished Service Award by the Americans for Constitutional Action; and

WHEREAS, many public and nonprofit agencies benefitted from his guidance, including that of appointment to the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors from 1988 until 1992, as a member he provided wise counsel on issues that involved tuition increases, loans extended to fraternal organizations, and advanced desegregation plans for institutions of higher learning; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life Pat Caffery was a man of action and his proactive stance made him a positive force at all levels of human endeavor; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by the love of his life, Anne Bercegeay Caffery, sons, Patrick Jr., Kevin, and Michael; six grandchildren, extended family, and dear friends; and

WHEREAS, Pat Caffery was a man of great strength and intellect, a caring individual who has left his mark on the community of New Iberia and the state of Louisiana, who envisioned the potential for each individual, and who met the challenges of life head-on with zeal and candor tempered with immense love of family and compassion for his fellow man.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the passing of a renowned statesman, The Honorable Patrick T. Caffery Sr.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby celebrate his extraordinary life and commend the rich legacy that Pat Caffery leaves to the benefit of future generations and acknowledges a life well-spent in the service of his country, his community, his state, and his God.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his widow, Mrs. Anne B. Caffery.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES