

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 72

BY SENATOR THOMPSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Tallulah mayor Eddie Beckwith Jr.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and great sadness that the state of Louisiana and its citizens have learned of the passing of Tallulah mayor Eddie Beckwith Jr., on March 27, 2014, at the age of sixty-four after his long and hard-fought battle with cancer; and

WHEREAS, at the time of his death he was serving his second term as mayor, having been first elected in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Eddie Beckwith Jr. was a native of Tallulah, Louisiana, and was born on August 10, 1949, and attended Wright Elementary School, graduated from Reuben McCall High School, obtained a bachelor of arts degree from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana, and was twelve hours away from a master's degree in human resources and development at Webster University, St Louis, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Beckwith also served his country in the United States Army, making it a career spanning over three decades with over thirty-three years of active and reserve duty military service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Beckwith was a graduate of the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy Resident Phase, at Ft. Bliss, Texas, and during his service, he received numerous promotions, awards, accolades, honors and decorations, retiring from the United States Army with the highest rank that a noncommissioned officer can achieve, a rank of command sergeant major at the E-9 rank; and

WHEREAS, Eddie Beckwith Jr. served over twenty-one years in state government with the Department of Social Services, and then returned to Tallulah as Chief Director of Operations of Beckwith Golden Gate Funeral Home; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Beckwith was a leader and a friend, a gentleman with much talent and a strong work ethic, who as mayor, had a positive motto of "Together we can"; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his loving, devoted and dedicated wife of forty-three years, Mary Louise Jones Beckwith, and their two cherished children, Michael Dwayne Beckwith and Tiffany Nicole Beckwith; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the town of Tallulah experienced continued growth and vitality with many accomplishments such as the improvements of streets, fire protection, recreational activities, expansion of affordable quality housing developments, improved public facilities, improved flood protection, and the overall quality of Tallulah; and

WHEREAS, upon his death, the world lost a unique individual who left an indelible mark upon the lives of all those who knew him in his community, in his town of Tallulah, and in the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, with the death of Mayor Eddie Beckwith Jr., the state has lost one of her finest sons; a man who loved God, his family, country, state, town, community, and profession; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Beckwith was the kind of man who represents what is good about Louisiana; a man of wisdom who always used his considerable talents, integrity, loyalty, and passion to change his community, town, state and country for the better; a man who dedicated his life to public service to his town, state, and country, and to protecting and making the world a better place to live not only for our generation but for future generations as well; and

WHEREAS, because of his numerous accomplishments in public and private life, the death of Eddie Beckwith Jr. has left a void in his community and has created a genuine sense of profound sorrow in his town, state, country, and especially for his friends and family; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Beckwith was a vital force in Northeast Louisiana and cared about the region and the state as a whole, his vision was one of a more prosperous and progressive future, and he was especially excited about Tallulah's potential; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of people like Eddie Beckwith Jr. who use their considerable talents and resources to help and serve others.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby honor the life of Eddie Beckwith Jr. and his numerous accomplishments in public and private life and extend sincere condolences to his family on the occasion of his death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted the family of Eddie Beckwith Jr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES