

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 84

BY SENATOR DORSEY-COLOMB

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Francis Grayson Jr. of Baton Rouge.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and sadness that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana learned of the passing of Francis Grayson Jr. on April 18, 2014, at age fifty-three; and

WHEREAS, he was a native of Monroe, Louisiana, and was educated in the Monroe City School System and Southern University in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, Francis Grayson was respected and cherished by everyone with whom he interacted and was an ultimate professional, community innovator, and genuinely good person whose glowing personality and wit resulted in him being perfectly fit for a career in hospitality; and

WHEREAS, as a business executive, he was also instrumental in the revitalization of downtown Baton Rouge as he spent many of his days working to improve the area; and

WHEREAS, Francis Grayson and his business partner, Gayle Carnahan, operated a hospitality company named Nu Vieux for many years in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, Francis Grayson was a familiar smiling face at some of the city's nicest hotels such as Hotel Indigo, where he worked as general manager since its opening in 2011; and

WHEREAS, prior to Hotel Indigo, he was a major contributor to the opening of the Belle of Baton Rouge and the Sheraton Hotel; and

WHEREAS, Francis Grayson could often be found overseeing events at the Lyceum Ballroom and the Kress Building; and

WHEREAS, he had a very successful career in hospitality for over thirty years beginning as a restaurant server; and

WHEREAS, Francis Grayson took pride in his work and made it his primary goal to send every guest or customer away with a very positive impression of the venues that he managed as he did not just meet people, but he formed lasting relationships with his

customers which provided him with a nationwide network; and

WHEREAS, he was involved in the Downtown Development District, YMCA Downtown, Historic Homes Association, Louisiana Restaurant Association, Visit Baton Rouge, and Hotel Owners IHG; and

WHEREAS, Francis Grayson is survived by his parents, Elvator M. Grayson and Francis and Anita Grayson; sister, Cheron Grayson-Atunrase; brother, Frederick Grayson and wife Tracey; and

WHEREAS, the loss of the precious soul that lived in Francis Grayson is mourned by many across the country and he will be missed by all.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere condolences to the family and friends of Francis Grayson Jr. upon his death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Elvator M. Grayson and Francis and Anita Grayson.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE