

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 164

BY REPRESENTATIVE ST. GERMAIN

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences and the heartfelt sorrow of the House of Representatives upon the death of Paul J. Ramsay, owner of Nottoway Plantation and chairman of Ramsay Health Care Companies.

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2014, the state lost one of its very best and most-respected businessmen and philanthropists; and

WHEREAS, Paul Ramsay was born in Sydney, Australia, in 1936, and would later graduate from St. Ignatius College, Riverview, in New South Wales, followed by studies at the University of Sydney; and

WHEREAS, at the age of twenty-eight, Ramsay purchased a guest house on Sydney's North Shore and converted it into a sixteen-unit psychiatric hospital, that became the first private psychiatric hospital in all of Australia; and

WHEREAS, Ramsay renamed his company Ramsay Health Care and began purchasing surgical centers, private hospitals, and rehabilitation centers all over Australia, and over the next several decades, Ramsay Health Care expanded outside of Australia into Malaysia, Indonesia, the United Kingdom, and France, and today the company employs over thirty thousand people and treats over one million patients every year at over one hundred fifty private health care centers; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, Ramsay became an Officer of the Order of Australia for his philanthropy and in 1985, he purchased Nottoway Plantation in White Castle, Louisiana, and poured fifteen million dollars into an extensive renovation of the original mansion in 2005, and he then expanded multiple areas of the thirty-five-acre site, transforming what was once an old plantation into a preeminent conference and wedding resort, and Mr. Ramsay accomplished all of this while Louisiana was still reeling from the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Gustav and the BP oil spill; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ramsay directed the bulk of his three and one-half billion dollar estate to be transferred to the Paul Ramsay Foundation, which will become one of the wealthiest charities in the country; and

WHEREAS, Nottoway Plantation & Resort will continue to operate and grow, now guided by Mr. Ramsay's foundation, and by his long-term vision of turning the property into the South's premiere destination.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its condolences and most heartfelt sorrow to the family of Paul J. Ramsay, businessman and philanthropist.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mr. Ramsay's family and to Nottoway Plantation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES