

2015 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 36

BY SENATOR CHABERT

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Viona Lapeyrouse Chabert on the occasion of her eightieth birthday.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Viona Lapeyrouse Chabert on the occasion of her eightieth birthday.

3 WHEREAS, Viona Lapeyrouse Chabert, the daughter of Abby and Florence
4 Lapeyrouse of Chauvin, was born April 23, 1935; and

5 WHEREAS, Miss Viona was the oldest of five children: Ouida, Una, Lloyd, and
6 Tillman; and

7 WHEREAS, the Lapeyrouse family lived on Bayou Lil Caillou and that is where they
8 made their living by trapping and shrimping, with Abby also working to make ends meet as
9 a janitor and at a small gas station that he owned; and

10 WHEREAS, after his distinguished service in the United States Army during the
11 Korean Conflict, the late Senator Leonard J. Chabert of Cut-Off met and later married
12 Viona, on May 10, 1953; and

13 WHEREAS, together she and Leonard settled down in Chauvin and raised their five
14 children: Donna Chabert Malbrough, former Senator Marty J. Chabert, Lori Chabert
15 Blanchard, Lenny Chabert, and Senator Norby Chabert - who claims to be her favorite; and

16 WHEREAS, Miss Viona supported Leonard in his efforts to attain his graduate
17 equivalency diploma and a degree in education from Nicholls State University on the G.I.
18 Bill; and

1 WHEREAS, the old saying, "Behind every great man is a great woman" certainly
2 applies to Miss Viona who, as a mother and homemaker, allowed Leonard to pursue his
3 political and business ventures; and

4 WHEREAS, while she was hesitant about Leonard entering the field of politics, she
5 was his biggest supporter during his public service as justice of the peace, school board
6 member, two-term state representative, three-term state senator, and President Pro-Tempore
7 of the Louisiana Senate; and

8 WHEREAS, upon Leonard's founding of a state charity hospital in Houma, the South
9 Louisiana Medical Center, Viona gave her time as a volunteer managing the hospital gift
10 shop; and

11 WHEREAS, after Leonard's untimely death in 1991, Miss Viona assumed leadership
12 of the Chabert family with reluctant dignity and grace; and

13 WHEREAS, one of her proudest moments came on the first day of Marty's term in
14 the state senate, when the legislature changed the name of the South Louisiana Medical
15 Center to the Leonard J. Chabert Medical Center; and

16 WHEREAS, to this day Miss Viona believes in the mission of the Leonard J. Chabert
17 Medical Center to serve the poor and the uninsured people of the bayou region that find
18 themselves in the same position as she and Leonard did growing up and in the early days of
19 their marriage; and

20 WHEREAS, Miss Viona is the proud grandmother of sixteen, prouder
21 great-grandmother of thirteen, and excited to welcome as many more as the good Lord will
22 bless her with; and

23 WHEREAS, as the matriarch of the Chabert family, she is beloved, respected, and
24 known up and down the bayou as "Lady Vi"; and

25 WHEREAS, she is the only lady in Louisiana history to have been married to a state
26 senator and mother to two state senators; and

27 WHEREAS, Miss Viona is a fine Christian woman and a true Louisiana lady in every
28 sense of the phrase.

29 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
30 does hereby commend Viona Lapeyrouse Chabert on the occasion of her eightieth birthday.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
2 Viona Lapeyrouse Chabert.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alan Miller.

	DIGEST	
SR 36 Original	2015 Regular Session	Chabert

Commends Viona Lapeyrouse Chabert on the occasion of her 80th birthday.