

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 83

BY SENATORS THOMPSON, ADLEY, ALARIO, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, ERDEY, GALLOT, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MILLS, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, RISER, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE AND REPRESENTATIVES ANDERS AND PYLANT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to change the name of the Sicily Island Hills Wildlife Management Area to the J.C. "Sonny" Gilbert Wildlife Management Area.

WHEREAS, it is altogether fitting to honor the memory of J.C. "Sonny" Gilbert as a distinguished legislator, farmer, businessman, and outdoorsman; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Wisner High School, he attended Northeastern Junior College, now known as the University of Louisiana at Monroe, and Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, and other than proudly serving his country in the United States Army during World War II, he dedicated the rest of his life to his beloved state; and

WHEREAS, upon his return from military duty, he settled in Sicily Island where he began his family business of farming; and

WHEREAS, in 1956, Sonny Gilbert began a career of public service that would span twenty-six years with his election to the Catahoula Parish Police Jury; and

WHEREAS, during his distinguished years of service, he would serve in both houses of the Louisiana Legislature serving with distinction under four governors, Earl K. Long, Jimmie H. Davis, John J. McKeithen, and Edwin W. Edwards; and

WHEREAS, he served three consecutive terms in the Louisiana State Senate from 1960 until 1972, having represented the parishes of Franklin, Richland, and Catahoula with service as the chairman of the committee on agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, and rural development, and the committee on transportation, highways, and public works; and

WHEREAS, he was elected for a single term to the House of Representatives in 1972, from the newly reapportioned Twenty-First District representing Catahoula and Concordia parishes; and

WHEREAS, while in the legislature, Sonny Gilbert was a vocal supporter of farming interests and agricultural initiatives; and

WHEREAS, he concluded his public service career as a member of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission from 1976 until 1982, and served as its chairman for his last two years; and

WHEREAS, during his long life, he made many contributions to the Sicily Island area economy as a rice and cotton farmer, rancher, and founding director of the Jonesville Bank and Trust; and

WHEREAS, it is right to honor the distinguished life of J.C. "Sonny" Gilbert for his outstanding public service, his many accomplishments, his tireless spirit, and his unwavering dedication to the public good.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to honor the life and memory of J.C. "Sonny" Gilbert and the many great contributions he has made to the state of Louisiana by changing the name of the Sicily Island Hills Wildlife Management Area to the J.C. "Sonny" Gilbert Wildlife Management Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES