

2016 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY SENATORS BOUDREAUX AND CORTEZ

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of William Ward "Bill" Rucks III.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the
3 death of William Ward "Bill" Rucks III.

4 WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens of Louisiana
5 learned of the death of William Ward "Bill" Rucks III on March 7, 2016, in Lafayette,
6 Louisiana, surrounded by his beloved family; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Rucks was born on January 9, 1931, to Dr. William Ward Rucks Jr.
8 and Louise Earthman Rucks; and

9 WHEREAS, a native of Nashville, Tennessee and former resident of Oklahoma City,
10 Oklahoma, Mr. Rucks was a resident of Lafayette for the majority of his life; and

11 WHEREAS, he attended The Webb School in Bell Buckle, Tennessee, was a
12 graduate of Pembroke Country Day Preparatory School in Kansas City, Missouri, and
13 attended the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Rucks was an independent petroleum landman and the owner of
15 W.W. Rucks, III Oil Properties; and

16 WHEREAS, he was the president and a member of the board of directors of
17 Westlands Corporation of Lake Charles, and a past member of the Lafayette Association of
18 Petroleum Landmen as well as the American Association of Petroleum Landmen, and was

1 a Certified Petroleum Landman; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Rucks served with distinction as a member and president of the
3 board of Lafayette Crime Stoppers and as a member of the Advisory Board of Directors of
4 Iberia Bank; and

5 WHEREAS, he was a past member of several civic organizations, including the
6 Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the Lafayette Economic Development
7 Expressway Commission, the University of Southwestern Louisiana Foundation, the
8 Louisiana State University Foundation, and the board of directors of Lafayette General
9 Medical Center and Lafayette General Surgical Hospital; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Rucks was a past chairman of the Cajundome Commission and the
11 Municipal Auditorium Management Board, as well as a past member and chairman of the
12 board of directors of First National Bank; and

13 WHEREAS, he served as past president of the Greater Southwest Louisiana Mardi
14 Gras Association and a past advisory board member and Commodore of the Krewe of
15 Gabriel; and

16 WHEREAS, he was also a past vice-president of the Lafayette Town House, past
17 president of Oakbourne Country Club, and past charter member of the Petroleum Club of
18 Lafayette; and

19 WHEREAS, an avid outdoorsman, Mr. Rucks enjoyed hunting and fishing,
20 particularly at the Florence Club in Gueydan, which is owned by his son, and was a jogger,
21 a golfer, and enjoyed playing tennis; and

22 WHEREAS, left to cherish his memory are his wife of sixty years,
23 Margaret Roy Rucks; two daughters, Margaret Gibson Rucks and Elizabeth Anne Scott; one
24 son, William W."Billy" Rucks IV; ten grandchildren, Graham Cliffe Laborde,
25 Gibson Theodore Laborde, Garrison Rucks Laborde, William Ward Rucks V,
26 Lane Alexandra R. McKnight, Shaylyn Elizabeth Scott, John Michael Scott,
27 James Anthony Scott, Therese Catherine Scott, and Abigail Grace Scott; three
28 great-grandchildren, Madison Margaret Laborde, Grayson Rucks Laborde, and
29 May Catherine McKnight; and one sister, Peggy Margaret R. McCune; and

30 WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. William Ward Rucks Jr.

