

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 44

BY SENATORS JOHN SMITH AND GATTI

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Don Fulkerson, a volunteer from Illinois, who died while assisting victims of flooding in Louisiana and to express genuine appreciation and gratitude for his service to the people of the state.

WHEREAS, Donald Fulkerson, a resident of Galatia, Illinois and a member of the First Baptist Church of Galatia and its disaster response team, died of a heart attack while assisting victims of recent floods in Leesville, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Fulkerson and his wife, Margie, were serving together with the Galatia First Baptist Church Disaster Relief (DR) team who joined with other DR teams from churches in Illinois to assist the victims of wide-spread flooding in Louisiana in March; and

WHEREAS, Fulkerson, age seventy-seven, was a dedicated member of his church's disaster first responders and as a member of that team, Fulkerson had been called out to serve at fifteen disaster sites around the country in only the last four years; and

WHEREAS, Don and Margie and all team members are trained to respond to natural disasters and, at those sites, the teams provide feeding stations, mobile kitchens, child care and faith support, among other services; and

WHEREAS, in the case of disasters involving flooding, these DR volunteers often help homeowners with the clearing of debris and contaminated materials from their flooded properties; and

WHEREAS, while neighboring states typically send their first responders to assist in the aftermath of natural disasters, the flooding and damage in March affected many of Louisiana's neighboring states, so the sacrifice and assistance of the disaster relief teams from as far away as Illinois were key to returning many in Louisiana to their homes and a normal life; and

WHEREAS, the damage within the state was devastating with nearly seven thousand homes damaged in twenty-eight parishes reaching from the borders with Arkansas and Texas across the middle of the state to parishes all along the I-10 corridor, including the closure of that major east-west artery at the Texas state line for nearly a week and east through Tangipahoa, St. Tammany and Washington parishes; and

WHEREAS, at the time of his death on March 29, 2016, Don and Margie were serving together in Leesville and their faithful service to Christ brought great joy to both of them as they served side by side in the ministry of disaster relief; and

WHEREAS, services for Don Fulkerson were held at First Baptist Church in Galatia on Saturday, April 2, 2016, and he was laid to rest in Tate's Chapel Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Don Fulkerson and Margie shared a deep and abiding faith and used that faith to bring both support and comfort to those who suffered from natural disasters and their faithful service to disaster victims was deservedly met with gratitude from all Louisianians.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere condolences upon the death of Don Fulkerson, a volunteer from Illinois, who died while assisting victims of flooding in Louisiana and to express genuine appreciation and gratitude for his service to the people of the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Margie Fulkerson of Galatia, Illinois.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE