

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 116

BY REPRESENTATIVES MARCELLE, STEVE CARTER, AND FOIL

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of former director of the Louisiana Naval War Memorial and the *U.S.S. Kidd* Veterans Memorial and Museum, Maury Drummond.

WHEREAS, the members of the House were saddened to learn of the death on Sunday, May 1, 2016, of Maury Drummond; and

WHEREAS, for twenty-two years at the helm of the Louisiana Naval War Memorial and the *U.S.S. Kidd* Veterans Memorial and Museum, Mr. Drummond implemented programs and exhibits that lured tourists to Baton Rouge, making the *Kidd* the gold standard for ship exhibits; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Drummond's love of history and interest in model ship building led him from the insurance industry to his first post as second executive director of the museums, and once there, Mr. Drummond convinced veterans to donate their memorabilia and model makers to share their scaled-down ships, bringing vitality and viability to the exhibits; and

WHEREAS, naval groups in Washington were prompted by Mr. Drummond to help plan the walk-through reconstruction of the *U.S.S. Constitution*, and he put his promotional skills to good use, finding sponsors to help pay for new museum offerings; and

WHEREAS, such innovative ideas as allowing children to spend the night aboard the *Kidd*, families celebrating Independence Day aboard the ship, and prevailing upon veterans of naval destroyers to visit the exhibits and to reminisce were developed and implemented by Mr. Drummond and greatly increased the visitor traffic to the *U.S.S. Kidd* and the Louisiana Naval War Memorial; and

WHEREAS, a consummate fundraiser, Mr. Drummond convinced the captains and curators of other ships to visit Baton Rouge: the nineteenth century sailing ship *Elissa* graced the Mississippi waters near the *U.S.S. Kidd*, and a reproduction of Christopher Columbus's *Pinta* and more modern vessels sailed into Baton Rouge; these exhibits increased ticket sales and allowed the memorial, which received no state funding, to stay in operation; and

WHEREAS, the staff of the museums recall Mr. Drummond as the heart of the memorial; his departure at the age of seventy-four leaves a profound sense of sadness but his years as director will be fondly remembered by all who knew and loved him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend deepest sympathies to the family, friends, and former colleagues of Maury Drummond and does hereby express hopes that his legacy will live on.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Maury Drummond.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES