

2016 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 140

BY SENATOR JOHNS

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Richard "Dick" Joseph Gregory.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the  
3 death of Richard "Dick" Joseph Gregory of Sulphur, Louisiana.

4 WHEREAS, Richard "Dick" Joseph Gregory, who died on February 4, 2016, at the  
5 age of seventy-three, was a Louisiana native, born in New Orleans on July 23, 1942, to John  
6 Batt Gregory and Molly Rasmussen Gregory; and

7 WHEREAS, as a young teenager, Dick Gregory moved with his family to Sulphur  
8 where he graduated from Sulphur High in 1960 and from McNeese College in 1964; and

9 WHEREAS, upon graduation from McNeese, Mr. Gregory took a job with General  
10 Electric Credit Corporation and embarked on a thirteen year career with GE Credit, working  
11 primarily in the New Orleans office and living in Slidell; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1977 Dick Gregory's father asked him to return with his family to  
13 Calcasieu Parish where the elder Gregory and Dick's brother owned and operated a small  
14 insurance agency, known as the Gregory Agency; and

15 WHEREAS, with the senior Mr. Gregory in poor health and Dick's brother battling  
16 a fatal cancer diagnosis at the age of thirty-nine, the insurance agency needed both  
17 leadership and guidance if it was to continue as a viable enterprise, and it was for that  
18 purpose that Dick Gregory and his family returned to his Calcasieu Parish roots; and

1           WHEREAS, plunging into the insurance business without any experience, Mr.  
2 Gregory did not merely salvage the Gregory Agency, but over the next twenty-five years the  
3 agency grew into one of the largest and most successful insurance agencies in Southwest  
4 Louisiana; and

5           WHEREAS, in 2002, Dick Gregory foresaw considerable changes ahead for the  
6 health insurance industry and, in order to become a more diverse organization, merged the  
7 Gregory Agency with Regions Insurance; and

8           WHEREAS, throughout his years guiding the Gregory Agency, Dick Gregory was  
9 most proud of having his two sons work with him at the agency, leading a staff focused on  
10 excellence, and serving their clients; and

11           WHEREAS, Mr. Gregory was committed to giving back to and improving his  
12 community, which led to his service on numerous boards, commissions, and civic  
13 organizations, all dedicated to improving life in Calcasieu Parish; and

14           WHEREAS, Dick Gregory was perhaps most proud of his involvement with the  
15 Chennault Industrial Airport Authority, a former Air Force base named in honor of the  
16 famous World War II era General Chennault, leader of the famous "Flying Tigers", that was  
17 turned over by the military to be used for civilian purposes and the reconstructing of  
18 Chennault occurred primarily in 1986 and 1987; and

19           WHEREAS, today, Chennault Industrial Airport is a hub for the maintenance, repair,  
20 overhaul, and refueling of commercial and military aircraft and involves various endeavors  
21 of the lessors at the facility, which have an aggregate economic impact on the local economy  
22 of over two hundred million dollars annually, and such lessors include Northrop Grumman,  
23 Million Air, Louisiana Millwork, and Habitat for Humanity; and

24           WHEREAS, Dick Gregory's other community efforts included working with the  
25 Chamber of Commerce of Southwest Louisiana, the Rotary Club of Sulphur, and  
26 collaborating with his long-time friend, the late Roland Moss, to establish the Optimist  
27 Celebrity Golf Tournament, an endeavor designed to fund charitable outreach through the  
28 Optimist programs in the Sulphur and Lake Charles areas; and

29           WHEREAS, Mr. Gregory was a man of faith, and faith and family were certainly the  
30 grounding forces of his life, particularly his wife of over fifty years, Charlotte Dever

1 Gregory; his children, daughter Christie, sons Richard Joseph Gregory Jr. and John Batt  
2 Gregory and their spouses and families; and

3 WHEREAS, Dick Gregory's contributions to the business segment of Calcasieu  
4 Parish and to his community as a whole, living a life dedicated to his family, to excellence  
5 in every endeavor he undertook, and to his community, leaves a legacy of family, faith, and  
6 service.

7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
8 does hereby express the sincere condolences upon the death of Richard "Dick" Joseph  
9 Gregory.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
11 Charlotte Dever Gregory.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

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DIGEST

SR 140 Original                      2016 Regular Session                      Johns

Expresses condolences upon the death of Richard "Dick" Joseph Gregory at the age of 73.