

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 139

BY SENATOR JOHNS

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Jack Edward Lawton Sr. on April 11, 2016, at the age of eighty-seven.

WHEREAS, Jack Lawton was a native and lifelong resident of the area of Sulphur and Carlyss, Louisiana in Calcasieu Parish, where he and his brother owned and operated the Lawton Ranch; and

WHEREAS, Jack Lawton and his brother, William Burton Lawton, were born to Joseph and Evelyn Burton Lawton and his brother and their parents predeceased Lawton; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lawton was a 1946 graduate of Sulphur High School where he was a two-time All State football player and a one-time All State basketball player and he, along with his brother, was among the first to be inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in 2013; and

WHEREAS, as a rancher and entrepreneur, Jack Lawton was extensively involved in the farming, banking, and oil and gas industries, as well as other business ventures; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lawton's first love was Lawton Ranch in Choupique, Louisiana, of which he was co-owner and he relished the day-to-day business of ranching; and

WHEREAS, the Lawton family owned Calcasieu Marine National Bank and the operating company was William T. Burton Industries, which was eventually divided into two companies, one of which was Jack Lawton, L.L.C; and

WHEREAS, Jack Lawton remained president of the company until earlier this century, when he relinquished the business to his son and concentrated solely on the ranch; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lawton was known as a generous philanthropist, giving generously to both McNeese State University in Lake Charles and Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, in 1983 Jack Lawton was one of the founders and major financial supporters of the first Louisiana chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association, a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to the conservation and preservation of Louisiana's marine and animal life and to conserve, promote and enhance the present and future availability of these coastal resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public; and

WHEREAS, more than thirty-three years later, the Coastal Conservation Association in Louisiana is an organization that has grown to nearly twenty thousand members across the state; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lawton was also one of the founders and a key financial supporter of the Center for Coastal Conservation which is a coalition of leading advocates for marine recreational fishing and boating dedicated to promoting sound conservation and use of ocean resources by supporting federal legislators who support its goals; and

WHEREAS, Jack Lawton was a devoted family man and he leaves his wife, Dorothy "Coonie" Sonnier Lawton, his son Jack Lawton Jr. and his wife Holly Bugg Lawton and four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren to treasure their memories of a loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lawton was an ardent sportsman and he enjoyed hunting and fishing both in Louisiana, the Southern United States, and around the world; and

WHEREAS, the theme of all of Jack Lawton's activities in his life was that of a man who was dedicated to his family, the conservation of the coastal areas of Louisiana, improving his community, never shirking anything that he saw as his duty as a person committed to education, and focusing on the philanthropic needs of his community and his state; and

WHEREAS, Jack Lawton was not one to seek the spotlight for himself, but his intelligence, leadership, and penchant for generosity remains an enduring legacy for a rancher, sportsman, conservationist, and businessman of whom it was said "he liked to get things going, but in a low key way".

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express the sincere condolences upon the death of Jack Edward Lawton Sr. on April 11, 2016, at the age of eighty-seven.

**SR NO. 139**

**ENROLLED**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mrs.  
Dorothy "Coonie" Lawton.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE