

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 43

BY SENATORS COLOMB AND BARROW AND REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Willie Floyd Hawkins, a committed volunteer and a public servant of rare dedication and extraordinary capabilities who looked only to serve the people of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Willie Floyd Hawkins was born on April 17, 1945, to Leslie V. and Henrietta Harris in Ethel, Louisiana and died on September 17, 2016, at the age of seventy-one; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hawkins graduated from Southern University in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and served as a Vista Volunteer at Columbia University, School of Social Work in 1966 and 1967; and

WHEREAS, following his time as a Vista Volunteer, Willie Hawkins served in the United States Army and, while stationed in Vietnam, he served with the Military Assistance Command; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hawkins was the recipient of the two and one-half year prestigious Ford Foundation Fellowship Award in 1974; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hawkins' career of public service spanned more than forty-two years, serving the citizens of Louisiana, and Baton Rouge in particular, in the areas of higher education, healthcare, and social services until his much deserved retirement on July 5, 2013; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, Willie Hawkins began his public service as Executive Director of the Eden Park Community Health Center and, later, as the administrator of East Baton Rouge Parish Health Care Services; and

WHEREAS, also early in his professional career, Mr. Hawkins served several nonprofit organizations, including functioning as director of both the Health and Social Services for Community Advancements Inc. and the Young Adult Offender Program for the Community Corrections and Rehabilitation Center; and

WHEREAS, Willie Hawkins was named Executive Assistant to the Vice Chancellor at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans-Health Care Services division, and CEO of the Medical Center of Louisiana in New Orleans in July 1999, having previously served as Executive Assistant to the Vice Chancellor at LSU Health Sciences Center from July 1997 to July 1999; and

WHEREAS, prior to his service with LSU, Mr. Hawkins served as the confidential assistant to the CEO of the Louisiana Health Care Authority from November 1993 to August 1995, and January 1996 to July 1997; and

WHEREAS, under the Louisiana Health Care Authority, Willie Hawkins served as the acting administrator of Earl K. Long Medical Center from August 1995 to January 1996, and as assistant administrator from April 1984 to November 1993; and

WHEREAS, prior to his retirement on July 5, 2013, from LSU as the Director of Institutional Relations, a job he began in February 2004, Mr. Hawkins could be found on any given day, at any given hour, navigating patients through the often complicated Louisiana health care system; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hawkins provided professional administrative leadership in public health care for many years and he personally ensured that thousands of patients were able to obtain medical appointments and emergency treatment regardless of their ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, Willie Hawkins was known to all who served as city, parish, or state officials, all city-parish department heads, and community leaders and he continued on a firsthand basis with those who served the citizens of Louisiana, such was his dedication to his state and its people; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hawkins was extremely instrumental in securing from the Brown family, the donation of property that make up strategic parts of the new medical clinic and urgent care center campus in North Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, for over forty-two years Willie Floyd Hawkins put the healthcare education and social services that were needed by any and every Louisianian above his own concerns, and with his death Louisiana has lost a treasure of the caliber that the state may never see again.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere condolences upon the death of Willie Floyd Hawkins, a dedicated volunteer and longtime public servant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Claudia Davis Hawkins, wife of Willie Floyd Hawkins.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES