SLS 18RS-839 ORIGINAL

2018 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 44

BY SENATORS MILLS AND BOUDREAUX AND REPRESENTATIVES HUVAL AND TERRY LANDRY

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences on the death of Patrick J. Huval.

| 1 | A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION |
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| 2 | To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Pat |
| 3 | Huval, famous restauranteur, former mayor of Henderson, Louisiana, proud Cajun, |
| 4 | and extraordinary visionary and entrepreneur. |
| 5 | WHEREAS, Patrick Joseph Huval died on January 6, 2018, at the age of eighty-eight |
| 6 | in Breaux Bridge, Louisiana; and |
| 7 | WHEREAS, Patrick Huval was born in Henderson, Louisiana, on August 22, 1929, |
| 8 | to Tom and Noelie Berard Huval; and |
| 9 | WHEREAS, growing up during the Great Depression "Mr. Pat", as he was known |
| 10 | to all, worked hard to help feed and clothe his mother and siblings, as his father had died |
| 11 | when he was only six months old; and |
| 12 | WHEREAS, Mr. Pat grew up knowing the meaning of hard work and was always one |
| 13 | who would take charge as he did when he ended his formal education in the fourth grade in |
| 14 | order to work full-time, as his mother continually searched for a full-time job, but could only |
| 15 | find odd jobs to support her family; and |
| 16 | WHEREAS, at the tender age of twelve, not yet a teenager, Pat Huval secured his |
| 17 | first full-time job working for family friend, George Dupuis, as a clerk in Dupuis' grocery |
| 18 | store; and |

| 1 | WHEREAS, when Mr. Pat was eighteen he married Agnes Hebert and, a year later |
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| 2 | in 1948, they opened a grocery store of their own, beginning the career that would make Pat |
| 3 | Huval a household name throughout South Louisiana in the heart of Cajun country, and |
| 4 | beyond; and |
| 5 | WHEREAS, the Huvals worked dawn to dusk every day, selling groceries, |
| 6 | hamburgers, and crawfish by the sack; and |
| 7 | WHEREAS, to make ends meet, Mr. Pat worked on dredging boats in the evenings |
| 8 | after the store closed; and |
| 9 | WHEREAS, Mr. Pat and Agnes added crawfish and seafood dishes to their modest |
| 10 | fare offered at the grocery store; and |
| 11 | WHEREAS, always careful with their money and focused on saving for the future, |
| 12 | the Huvals were able to purchase a local dance hall and restaurant, but in 1952, they sold that |
| 13 | business and purchased another building; and |
| 14 | WHEREAS, the second building became home to Pat's Restaurant in Henderson, |
| 15 | which soon gained fame as a place where delicious, home-cooked crawfish dishes were the |
| 16 | stars of the menu; and |
| 17 | WHEREAS, by the 1960s Pat's Restaurant became a destination for people |
| 18 | throughout Louisiana and, eventually, the world and, in addition the dining room was |
| 19 | regularly filled to capacity; and |
| 20 | WHEREAS, in the early 1960s, Pat's became a gathering spot for Louisiana |
| 21 | politicians as it was near Baton Rouge and everyone loved the crawfish and seafood dishes |
| 22 | served in the lively atmosphere; and |
| 23 | WHEREAS, with mentors George Dupuis and Robert Angelle, along with |
| 24 | politicians, the then serving Governor John McKeithen and state Senator Paul Hardy, Pat |
| 25 | Huval was encouraged to put his energy and natural business acumen to work for the people |
| 26 | of Henderson in the political arena; and |
| 27 | WHEREAS, in 1971, having spearheaded the move to incorporate, after the |
| 28 | incorporation of Henderson, Louisiana, as a town, Pat Huval ran for mayor and won, serving |
| 29 | nearly twenty-two years as the first mayor; and |
| 30 | WHEREAS, Pat Huval served on the board of directors of Farmers-Merchants Bank |

| 1 | for over ten years and in the 1990s Governor Edwin Edwards named him to serve on the |
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| 2 | Atchalafaya Levee Board; and |
| 3 | WHEREAS, Pat and Agnes Huval were dedicated to progress for the little hamlet of |
| 4 | Henderson, where most of the roads were dirt or gravel; as mayor he made repairing and |
| 5 | upgrading the roads his first priority and, once most of the roads within the town limits were |
| 6 | paved, Pat moved on to build a town hall, a local jail and, eventually, a twenty-acre park and |
| 7 | established a fire department; and |
| 8 | WHEREAS, Pat and Agnes Huval had four children and they celebrated their |
| 9 | fourteen grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren who were largely their focus in |
| 10 | improving the town through civic activities and business enterprises; and |
| 11 | WHEREAS, three of the Huval's children currently work in the restaurant, dance hall |
| 12 | known as the Atchafalaya Club, motel, factory, and crawfish peeling plant complex known |
| 13 | as "Pat's Fisherman's Wharf" property; and |
| 14 | WHEREAS, Pat Huval's son Harvey said of his father, "he started with practically |
| 15 | nothing in his life. He borrowed three hundred dollars to start his business and he became |
| 16 | a multimillionaire. We have five businesses and all of them do well"; and |
| 17 | WHEREAS, Pat Huval did not stop at public service, he was known for little acts of |
| 18 | kindness and generosity, paying for others' home repairs, subsidizing mortgages, being sure |
| 19 | no one in Henderson went hungry, and being in line to assist the local church with what it |
| 20 | needed to serve the people; and |
| 21 | WHEREAS, Pat Huval was a man who was dedicated to his family, his town and its |
| 22 | citizens, and to establishing a business for his children to carry on; he was an amazing |
| 23 | entrepreneur and a visionary who could see his small seafood shack operation becoming a |
| 24 | thriving business enterprise for the good of his family and his community; and |
| 25 | WHEREAS, Patrick Joseph Huval will be long remembered as a community leader, |
| 26 | a compassionate neighbor, a loving patriarch, a steadfast friend, and an extraordinarily |
| 27 | perceptive citizen and businessperson. |
| 28 | THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby |
| 29 | express sincere condolences upon the death of Pat Huval, famous restauranteur, former |
| 30 | mayor of Henderson, Louisiana, proud Cajun, and extraordinary visionary, and entrepreneur. |

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

2 Huval children: Harvey, Nancy, Cynthia, and Jude.

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

DIGEST SCR 44 Original 2018 Regular Session

Mills

Expresses condolences upon the death of Pat Huval, famous restauranteur, former mayor of Henderson, Louisiana, proud Cajun, and extraordinary visionary, and entrepreneur.