

2018 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 49

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of journalist and writer, Lou Gehrig Burnett.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Lou
3 Gehrig Burnett of Shreveport, Louisiana, and to note his exceptional career as an
4 accomplished journalist and political pundit.

5 WHEREAS, it is with deep remorse that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of
6 the passing of Lou Gehrig Burnett, who as the publisher of Fax-Net Update, provided an
7 online weekly analysis of local, state, and national issues to northwest Louisiana; and

8 WHEREAS, for five decades Lou Gehrig Burnett advanced the profession of
9 journalism as a successful writer, political analyst, editor, and publisher; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Burnett was also the senior political columnist for The Forum
11 News, a regular panelist on radio and the Comcast Cable broadcast, "Dateline Shreveport",
12 the political analyst for several local television stations including KSLA-TV, Channel 12,
13 and a contributor to The Bossier Press-Tribune; and

14 WHEREAS, born in Houma, Louisiana, Lou Gehrig Burnett displayed an innate
15 ability for literary expression at an early age; he began his journalism career as editor of his
16 grade school newspaper; he continued honing his writing skills while in high school as sports
17 editor for the Houma Courier and he was the youngest newspaper editor in the state at that
18 time; and

1 WHEREAS, matriculating at Nicholls State College, Burnett was the first sophomore
2 to be named editor of its newspaper, the Nicholls Worth, and was elected Terrebonne Parish
3 Representative on the Student Government Association; after two years of study, he then
4 transferred to LSU to pursue a journalism major, where he advanced to become sports editor,
5 managing editor, and eventually editor-in-chief of The Daily Reveille; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Burnett garnered both an undergraduate degree in journalism with
7 minors in English and sociology and a master's degree while at LSU during the 1960s; those
8 were the "salad days" of pen and paper, and mastery of changing a typewriter ribbon; and

9 WHEREAS, the exceptional academic accomplishments of Mr. Burnett resulted in
10 a recommendation by Frank Price, LSU dean of journalism, that afforded him entrance into
11 the rarefied domain of Washington, D.C. political circles as press secretary and confidante
12 to Louisiana Congressman F. Edward Hebert of New Orleans, a position he held from 1966
13 until Hebert's retirement in 1977; and

14 WHEREAS, for sixteen years, Mr. Burnett acted as chief-of-staff for Congressman
15 Jerry Huckaby of Minden; Burnett then served as chief adviser and oversaw the operations
16 of the Washington office and two district offices in the Louisiana Fifth Congressional
17 District; and

18 WHEREAS, after twenty-seven years on Capitol Hill, Lou Gehrig Burnett settled in
19 Shreveport in 1993 and continued to pursue his true vocation as a journalist by writing
20 political columns for local news media and also serving a two-year stint as executive
21 assistant to Mayor Robert Warren "Bo" Williams of Shreveport; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Burnett has been recognized by his peers for his objective political
23 commentary with receipt of numerous awards that include selection by the Louisiana Press
24 Association on three separate occasions as Best Column for Continuing Coverage of
25 Governmental Issues in The Forum; and

26 WHEREAS, for his service on Capitol Hill, Mr. Burnett was named to Personalities
27 of the South by the American Biographical Institute and Who's Who in American Politics;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, in 2017, Lou Gehrig Burnett was honored by his alma mater with
30 induction into the Manship School of Mass Communication Hall of Fame at Louisiana State

1 University; and

2 WHEREAS, Lou Gehrig Burnett experienced tremendous success throughout his
3 career; he frequently spoke about local topics at civic functions; and he was instrumental in
4 the founding of the Media Lunch Bunch, a gathering of journalists who meet to discuss news
5 topics of interest and these luncheons are often attended by community officials, candidates,
6 and dignitaries; and

7 WHEREAS, during his lifetime, Lou Gehrig Burnett witnessed the evolution in the
8 delivery of news and political commentary and its migration from newspaper print to digital
9 media, and he witnessed the expansion of readership far beyond the hometown newspaper
10 to the global internet; and

11 WHEREAS, Lou Gehrig Burnett shall be missed by his brothers, Huey, Glenn, and
12 Donald Burnett, extended family, many friends, and his readership.

13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
14 express sincere and heartfelt condolences on the passing of Lou Gehrig Burnett, a rare breed
15 of journalist, political writer, and publisher.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
17 Burnett Family.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Susan P. Montague.

DIGEST

SCR 49 Original 2018 Regular Session Peacock

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