

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 99

BY SENATOR LAFLEUR

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Reverend Sheldon Louis Roy.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of  
3 Louisiana upon the death of Reverend Sheldon Louis Roy.

4 WHEREAS, it is with great regret, sadness, and sorrow that the members of the  
5 Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the death of the Reverend Sheldon  
6 Louis Roy on Saturday, January 27, 2018, at the age of sixty-four; and

7 WHEREAS, Sheldon Louis Roy was born in Cottonport, Louisiana, to the late Van  
8 Lewis Roy and Lillia "Bettie" Elizabeth Landaiche, but he grew up in Marksville; and

9 WHEREAS, he was a 1971 graduate of Marksville High School, he attended  
10 Louisiana State University and the Northwood Institute, receiving a bachelor of art's degree  
11 from Saint Meinrad College and later a Master of Divinity from the University of Dallas;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, as a child, his mentor was longtime St. Joseph Catholic Church Priest,  
14 Henry "Father Van" Van DerPutten, who called young Sheldon a nickname in Dutch which  
15 meant "the little mighty blast" because the church would echo from the full organ music  
16 played by the young Sheldon; and

17 WHEREAS, as a teenager, he was on the volunteer campaign staff in the successful  
18 efforts to elect Eddie Knoll as district attorney; and

1           WHEREAS, before his priesthood, he took over the family business of Lewis Roy  
2           Motors and ran it for several years, and in keeping with his love of French culture and the  
3           Catholic faith, he advertised the dealership in both English and French and always closed  
4           the dealership on Catholic Holy Days of Obligation; and

5           WHEREAS, Reverend Sheldon Louis Roy was ordained a priest on May 31, 1986,  
6           and served in active ministry for twelve years; and

7           WHEREAS, he was an exemplary and highly admired citizen of Louisiana who  
8           worked tirelessly on a multitude of business, civic, political, and religious causes throughout  
9           his life; and

10          WHEREAS, he served as president of the Marksville Chamber of Commerce in  
11          1976, and was the founding president of the Avoyelles Parish chapter of CODOFIL (Council  
12          of Development of French in Louisiana); and

13          WHEREAS, he successfully spearheaded the effort to officially rename all the  
14          waterways in Avoyelles Parish from English back to their original French names, and still  
15          to this day, maps of Avoyelles Parish contain the French names; and

16          WHEREAS, he had a deep love and understanding of the culture of Avoyelles Parish,  
17          he spearheaded and volunteered on several projects to enhance the parish, and was often  
18          called upon to speak about the rich history of the parish and its people, and he promoted the  
19          fact that Avoyelles Parish was settled by direct French immigrants and Quebec descendants  
20          – not by the Acadians who came from Nova Scotia; and

21          WHEREAS, as a preservationist, he renovated one of Marksville's grand old homes,  
22          that of his great aunt Pearl Roy Bordelon, and he often opened the home for civic meetings;  
23          and

24          WHEREAS, he also preserved and shared a large collection of nineteenth century  
25          and early twentieth century photographs of Avoyelles Parish and its people, and most  
26          recently discovered and preserved several Avoyelles post-Colonial documents from the  
27          1700s which he had digitized at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette; and

28          WHEREAS, he completed the transcription and translation of the post-Civil War  
29          diary of the Rev. Julius Juneau of France, and this diary details the creation of the Mansura  
30          and Marksville Catholic Church parishes; and

1           WHEREAS, his most recent research uncovered the history of a previously unknown  
2 church at the Avoyelles Post, established in the 1790s and was in existence until about 1845  
3 when the first church building was erected between Marksville and Mansura; and

4           WHEREAS, he had returned to Marksville, Louisiana, in recent years where he  
5 immediately focused his efforts on strengthening CODOFIL; and

6           WHEREAS, he started a French-speaking group which still continues to meet at the  
7 library on Saturday mornings, many both old and young, take part in the group to enhance  
8 their French; and

9           WHEREAS, he also taught high school French at the Avoyelles Charter School,  
10 where he tried to incorporate Avoyelles French sayings in his class, teaching the difference  
11 in modern Parisian French and older Avoyelles French; and

12           WHEREAS, he led the effort to develop a "twinning" agreement between Avoyelles  
13 Parish and Bellechasse, Quebec, believed to be the first county-level twinning agreement in  
14 the country; and

15           WHEREAS, last summer he was fortunate enough to connect with relatives in  
16 Saint-Vallier de Bellechasse, Québec, where he saw the homesite and farm of the Roy family  
17 patriarch, Jean B. Roy, who immigrated to Avoyelles Parish in the 1790s; and

18           WHEREAS, he had planned a family reunion in Quebec this summer where the Roys  
19 from Avoyelles Parish were to meet their relatives in Quebec; and

20           WHEREAS, his last years were spent working in executive management and  
21 fundraising efforts for various charities and organizations, and most recently was working  
22 in business with his cousin, Josette Rovira Hargett, helping the mentally challenged in the  
23 central area of Louisiana; and

24           WHEREAS, because of his numerous accomplishments in public and private life,  
25 Father Roy will be forever remembered by the people of Louisiana for his integrity, dignity,  
26 courage, discoveries, knowledge, and the joy that he left in the hearts of all who knew him.

27           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
28 respectfully acknowledges with gratitude the outstanding service and numerous  
29 accomplishments of the Reverend Sheldon Louis Roy and extends sincere sorrow and  
30 heartfelt condolences on the occasion of his death.

1           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
2 family of Reverend Sheldon Louis Roy.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Tammy Crain Waldrop.

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	DIGEST	
SR 99 Original	2018 Regular Session	LaFleur
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