

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 101

BY SENATORS LUNEAU AND ALARIO

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences on the death of Judge James J. "Jim" Brady.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the
3 death of dedicated Democratic Party officer and functionary; respected attorney;
4 venerated federal judge; amazing and loving husband, father, and grandfather; and
5 generous and esteemed friend, Judge James J. Brady.

6 WHEREAS, James J. Brady was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on February 29, 1944,
7 the second of four sons born to Robert and Arlene Brady, and he died surrounded by his
8 family on December 9, 2017, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, following a brief illness; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1956, Judge Brady's parents and siblings settled in Covington,
10 Louisiana, where he graduated from Covington High School in 1962, having served as
11 student council president in his senior year; and

12 WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, Jim Brady attended Southeastern
13 Louisiana University in Hammond, Louisiana, where, in 1966, he graduated with a
14 bachelor's degree in history, having garnered many honors, including being a four-year
15 letterman in track and serving as the student body president; and

16 WHEREAS, continuing his education, Jim Brady entered Louisiana State University
17 law school in Baton Rouge and earned his Juris Doctor in 1969, and, while in law school,
18 he was elected president of the Student Bar Association; and

1 WHEREAS, in 1987, Judge Brady was installed as a charter member of the
2 Louisiana State University Law Center Hall of Fame; in 2014, he was named a Distinguished
3 Achievement Honoree; in 2018, he will receive posthumously the Louisiana Bar
4 Foundation's Louisiana Outstanding Jurist Award; and

5 WHEREAS, LSU Law Dean Tom Gallagan noted that Judge Brady was "incredibly
6 supportive of the LSU Law Center, our advocacy, and externship programs . . . he held LSU
7 Law in high regard and we will miss him", and this sentiment has been echoed across the
8 state and the legal profession; and

9 WHEREAS, a committed Democrat and an interested and inquisitive participant in
10 the political arena, Jim Brady worked tirelessly within his party and for Democratic
11 candidates around the state and nationally, not only in official party positions, but as a
12 campaign worker, confidant, and, eventually, a trusted and knowledgeable advisor; and

13 WHEREAS, beginning in 1971 with election to the Democratic State Central
14 Committee while still in his twenties, Judge Brady served his party as chairman of that State
15 Central Committee and, eventually, as president of the Association of State Democratic
16 Chairs with his first election in 1991, which was historically repeated in 1993 and again in
17 1995, at which time he became the first person honored with selection as president in the
18 thirty-year history of the group; and

19 WHEREAS, Jim Brady served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention
20 beginning with the 1980 convention and serving in that capacity repeatedly until 1996; and

21 WHEREAS, for twenty-three years of his legal career, Jim Brady was associated
22 with or in partnership with the honorable and widely respected Camille F. Gravel in the law
23 firm of Gravel, Brady, and Berrigan, and its predecessor firms with offices in Alexandria,
24 Baton Rouge, and New Orleans, Louisiana; and

25 WHEREAS, until 1999, Jim Brady was associated with firms in Baton Rouge, New
26 Orleans, generally heading offices in Baton Rouge, and Washington, D.C., where he became
27 a partner in the firm of Dyer, Ellis, Joseph, & Mills in 1996; and

28 WHEREAS, in 1999, Jim Brady was nominated to the federal bench for the Middle
29 District of Louisiana in Baton Rouge, and on May 24, 2000, he was overwhelmingly
30 confirmed by vote of the United States Senate; and

1 WHEREAS, as a district judge, Judge Brady was active in the Federal Judges
2 Association where he served as a member of the Board of Directors and the Fifth Circuit
3 District Judges Association where he served as president; and

4 WHEREAS, Judge Brady was proud to have ruled on and overseen the settlement
5 of the East Baton Rouge Parish school board's desegregation case, which, at the time in
6 2003, was one of the longest-pending such case in the courts of the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, Chief Judge Brian Jackson of the Middle District of Louisiana said,
8 "Judge Brady's remarkable career as a federal judge was exemplary and his commitment to
9 providing equal justice under the law resonated throughout his career as a lawyer and a
10 judge. He will forever be remembered for his extraordinary integrity, compassion, and
11 devotion to the rule of law", and his fellow judges mourn the loss of their esteemed
12 colleague and friend; and

13 WHEREAS, it should be noted that Jim Brady was a natural leader of people, and
14 a man without pretense in whose presence everyone felt noticed and as though one mattered,
15 and his abilities, integrity, and compassion led his peers to repeatedly elect him as president
16 or chairman of a group, including students at Covington High School, the student body at
17 Southeastern Louisiana University, the group of the Student Bar Association at law school,
18 the Louisiana State Democratic Central Committee, the Association of State Democratic
19 Chairs, and the Fifth Circuit District Judges Association, affirming his ability as a leader at
20 every level of achievement in his life; and

21 WHEREAS, Jim Brady was devoted and deeply in love with his wife and best friend
22 of fifty years, Karen, and dedicated to his children, Kathleen Melissa Stimpert and her
23 husband, Richard, of Austin, Texas, and James Sean Brady and his wife, Ashley, of College
24 Station, Texas, and especially to his two young grandsons, Sawyer Stimpert and Noah
25 Brady, who enriched the lives of both Jim, who they knew affectionately as "Pops", and
26 Karen, brightening each day; and

27 WHEREAS, friend Bob Mann remembered Jim Brady as "a man apart" and his life
28 in the political arena by saying, "he was the best of a bygone era during which politics was
29 not governed by such dark impulses . . . Then I remembered, there never was such an era in
30 American or Louisiana politics", not a golden era that had ended but, "rather, it is Jim Brady,

1 a rare individual, exceedingly modest and compassionate and generous to a fault who had
2 passed"; and

3 WHEREAS, Mann continued, saying that Jim Brady was giving of friendship
4 without asking anything in return, generous, thoughtful, compassionate, ethical to a fault and
5 faithful to his family and friends and "that person in my life who represented the best
6 balance of those fine qualities. He was simply . . . 'the best'"; and

7 WHEREAS, Jim Brady's favorite poem was *The Meditation of Departure* by Ralph
8 Waldo Emerson and it captures the way he lived his life, the mark he believed one should
9 leave with the world when death finally comes, and it is full of generosity, love, and
10 humility, as one would expect from a man whose life reflected all those qualities; the poem
11 reads:

12 To laugh often and much;
13 to win the respect of the intelligent people
14 and the affection of children;
15 to earn the appreciation of honest critics
16 and endure the betrayal of false friends;
17 to appreciate beauty;
18 to find the best in others;
19 to leave the world a bit better
20 whether by a healthy child,
21 a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition;
22 to know that even one life has breathed easier
23 because you have lived here.
24 This is to have succeeded.

25 Certainly, Judge James J. Brady succeeded in a spectacular fashion.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
27 does hereby express sincere condolences upon the death of dedicated Democratic Party
28 officer and functionary; respected attorney; venerated federal judge; amazing and loving
29 husband, father, and grandfather; and generous and esteemed friend, Judge James J. Brady.

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

