

2018 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 77

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Dr. Vincent C. Marsala, former chancellor of LSU Shreveport.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of  
3 Vincent C. Marsala, PhD, former chancellor of Louisiana State University at  
4 Shreveport (LSUS), and to note his outstanding career in education.

5 WHEREAS, it is with deep regret that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the  
6 passing of Dr. Vincent John Carmelo Marsala, an extraordinary scholar, teacher, mentor, and  
7 academic administrator; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Vincent Marsala was a founding member of the faculty of LSUS,  
9 a community college that evolved into a two-year associate degree program in 1965 as a  
10 branch of the LSU System; it later achieved undergraduate degree status in 1972; and

11 WHEREAS, during his forty-five year tenure at LSUS, Dr. Marsala served as an  
12 assistant professor, dean of the College of General Studies, dean of the College of  
13 Continuing Education, and Public Service, and as its fourth chancellor from 1995 until his  
14 retirement in 2012; and

15 WHEREAS, a scholar of the highest order, he amassed a plethora of stellar academic  
16 credentials; a graduate of St. Matthew High School in Monroe, he matriculated to Louisiana  
17 State University before transferring to Northeast State University, now known as University  
18 of Louisiana-Monroe, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in General Studies with minors

1 in political science and history; and

2 WHEREAS, as a cadet in Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC), upon graduation  
3 from NSU, Dr. Marsala completed officer candidate training at Fort Benning, Georgia where  
4 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army and placed on  
5 active duty; and

6 WHEREAS, for a time, Dr. Marsala entertained the notion of a career in the military,  
7 however, his love of scholarship guided him to more advanced studies; he returned to LSU  
8 to earn a master's degree in Government and Sociology in 1962; he later earned a doctorate  
9 in Latin American studies with the publication of his historical dissertation entitled, *Sir John*  
10 *Peter Grant, Governor of Jamaica 1866-1874: An Administrative History*; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Marsala possessed a brilliant intellect that was conveyed in his  
12 extensive expertise in history and government; he contributed, edited, and published research  
13 on a variety of subjects that included United States Senator Joseph E. Ransdell (D-LA),  
14 Abraham Lincoln, Louisiana Catholic Church History with Dr. Philip Uzee, and Grassroots  
15 Constitutionalism-*Shreveport, the South, and the Supreme Law of the Land*; and

16 WHEREAS, he received the highly sought after Fulbright Award for a group study  
17 project on Costa Rica entitled, *The Social Context of Crisis in Central America*; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Marsala also received the President's Award by 100 Business Men  
19 and Women of America, was named a Distinguished Fellow of the Louisiana Government  
20 Leadership Institute, and was listed in the Directory of Scholars and Specialists in Third  
21 World Studies; and

22 WHEREAS, respected among his contemporaries, Dr. Marsala was often called upon  
23 to speak before professional associations and present scholarly analyses such as, *Causes of*  
24 *Socio-Political Unrest in Central America*, *Revolution in Central America*, *Corruption and*  
25 *Scandal in Louisiana Politics*, *The U.S. Constitution-200 Years Strong*, *Racism-A Personal*  
26 *Statement*, *Italian Settlements in North Louisiana*, and *Louisiana-The Seamy Side of*  
27 *Democracy Revisited*; and

28 WHEREAS, Dr. Marsala was honored for his administrative achievements and  
29 community service with selection as Administrator of the Year by the Louisiana Association  
30 of Educational Office Personnel and receipt of the first Pilot of the Year Award by the LSUS

1 Alumni Association, being an honoree of the Gingerbread House Toast and Roast, and with  
2 recognition by Junior Achievement of North Louisiana as a Laureate of the North Louisiana  
3 Business Hall of Fame; and

4 WHEREAS, civic minded, Dr. Marsala served his community with election to the  
5 Caddo Parish Commission, appointment to the Consortium for Educational Research and  
6 Technology of North Louisiana, and in 1994, appointment to the Governor's Higher  
7 Education Commission for the 21st Century; and

8 WHEREAS, numerous nonprofit organizations benefitted from his service as an  
9 officer and board member of the Willis-Knighton Health System, the Greater Shreveport  
10 Chamber of Commerce, K-12 Alliance for Education, the Bossier Chamber of Commerce,  
11 KDAQ Public Radio, University Club, Inner City Entrepreneurial Institute, the National  
12 Conference for Community and Justice, the Norwela Council of Boy Scouts of America,  
13 Shreveport Regional Arts Council, Pierremont Oaks Tennis Club, and the Committee of 100-  
14 Shreveport; and

15 WHEREAS, while at LSUS as a professor of history, Dr. Marsala taught Louisiana  
16 history, Louisiana government, and Latin American history; and

17 WHEREAS, upon retirement, Vincent and Carol Ann Marsala were dual recipients  
18 of the Loyalty Award from the LSUS Alumni Association, an award presented to retiring  
19 faculty who had played a strategic role in the advancement of the university; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Vincent Marsala felt a deep and abiding connection to LSUS and  
21 the thousands of students he taught, advised, and mentored throughout his lengthy career;  
22 he bore witness to the positive impact that higher education can make on the future of an  
23 individual, and he will always be remembered for his kindness, honesty, and scholarship by  
24 generations of students and faculty; and

25 WHEREAS, in April of 1959, Vincent married the love of his life, his college  
26 sweetheart, Carol Ann Goodrum, and together they forged a world of their own making  
27 filled with affection and travel to far-off destinations; they had celebrated fifty-eight years  
28 of matrimony until his passing on December 13, 2017; they were blessed with a daughter,  
29 Shawne Christy Marsala.

30 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby

1       express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the passing of renowned administrator and  
2       academic, Dr. Vincent C. Marsala, former chancellor of LSU-Shreveport.

3               BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby note  
4       the years of exemplary service he performed for the advancement of scholarship in  
5       Louisiana.

6               BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his  
7       widow, Carol Ann Marsala.

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

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	DIGEST	
SCR 77 Original	2018 Regular Session	Peacock
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