

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 101

BY SENATORS LUNEAU, ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, PRICE, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, LSU Law Dean Tom Gallagan noted that Judge Brady was "incredibly supportive of the LSU Law Center, our advocacy, and externship programs . . . he held LSU

Law in high regard and we will miss him", and this sentiment has been echoed across the state and the legal profession; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, friend Bob Mann remembered Jim Brady as "a man apart" and his life in the political arena by saying, "he was the best of a bygone era during which politics was not governed by such dark impulses . . . Then I remembered, there never was such an era in American or Louisiana politics", not a golden era that had ended but, "rather, it is Jim Brady, a rare individual, exceedingly modest and compassionate and generous to a fault who had passed"; and

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Karen Brady, beloved wife and best friend of Jim Brady.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE