

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 223

BY SENATOR MORRISH

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Judge Bernard Marcantel.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the
3 death of Judge Bernard Marcantel.

4 WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens of Louisiana
5 learned of the death of Judge Bernard Marcantel on May 9, 2018; and

6 WHEREAS, Bernard Marcantel was born on July 14, 1923, in Oberlin, Louisiana,
7 where he graduated valedictorian of his high school class; and

8 WHEREAS, he received his bachelor of science degree from the University of
9 Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) in 1946 and his Juris Doctor from the University of Chicago
10 Law School in 1949; and

11 WHEREAS, while at the University of Chicago, he served as associate editor of the
12 Law Review from 1947 to 1948; and

13 WHEREAS, Judge Marcantel received a second Juris Doctor from Tulane University
14 Law School in 1950, and in 1953 was elected the youngest district attorney in Louisiana,
15 serving Jefferson Davis and Allen parishes; and

16 WHEREAS, Judge Marcantel was a practicing attorney in Jennings for sixty-eight
17 years and an active member of the American Bar Association, the Louisiana State Bar
18 Association, and the Jefferson Davis Bar Association since 1950; and

1 WHEREAS, he was honored by the Louisiana State Bar Association for more than
2 sixty years in the practice of law, served Jefferson Davis Parish as district attorney for the
3 31st Judicial District from 1953 to 1978, and judge for the city of Jennings and Ward II from
4 1985 to 1993; and

5 WHEREAS, Judge Marcantel also served as judge pro tempore for the 31st, 14th,
6 15th, and 36th Judicial Districts of Louisiana and the Third Circuit Court of Appeal; and

7 WHEREAS, he was the founding member of his law firm and has been practicing
8 law in Louisiana since 1950, making Marcantel, Marcantel, Wall and Pfeifer the oldest law
9 firm in Jefferson Davis Parish; and

10 WHEREAS, in his role as judge, he performed numerous weddings and the
11 participants always enjoyed his sometimes stern, sometimes light-hearted words of advice
12 to the newly married couple; and

13 WHEREAS, Judge Marcantel served in the United States Army during World War
14 II in the European Theatre of Operations and fought at the Battle of the Bulge in the
15 Ardennes Forest; and

16 WHEREAS, he was a member of American Legion Post #19 in Jennings for seventy-
17 one years and served as president of the board of directors of Jeff Davis Mortuary Benefit
18 Association for thirty-seven years; and

19 WHEREAS, Judge Marcantel received the Silver Beaver award from the Boy Scouts
20 of America and in 2010, he was named Citizen of the Year by the Jeff Davis Business
21 Alliance; and

22 WHEREAS, he was also a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and
23 served as president of the ULL Alumni Association and later of the Senior ULL Alumni
24 Association; and

25 WHEREAS, he served as president of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association
26 and was later selected for Who's Who in America; and

27 WHEREAS, Judge Marcantel was a member of Our Lady Help of Christians Church
28 for sixty-eight years and served the church on the parish council, the school board, and as
29 legal counsel for many years; and

30 WHEREAS, he was also a 4th Degree Member of the Knights of Columbus; and

1 WHEREAS, Judge Marcantel's happiest times were spent at his camp, Cardinal
2 Cove, near Lake Arthur on the Mermentau River, surrounded by family and friends; and

3 WHEREAS, his passion for hunting and fishing were legendary and every avid
4 hunter coveted an invitation to his houseboat in the deep marsh for a shot at the legal limit;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, his dogs, Buck, Miss Bee, and Rex were part of the family as well; and

7 WHEREAS, he is survived by his daughter, Nancy Tabb Marcantel; three sons,
8 David Emile Marcantel, Gregory Norman Marcantel, and Peter C. Marcantel; ten
9 grandchildren: Pierre, Natalie, Joel, Andrew, Anna, and Noel Marcantel; Chelsea
10 Marcantel-Polaski; Sister Protectrice de la Foi; Shannon Rougeau Greer; step-grandson Paul
11 Rougeau; one great-grandchild, Tristan Greer; and numerous much-loved nieces and
12 nephews on both the Marcantel and deGravelles sides who considered him their patriarch
13 and mentor; and

14 WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Emile and Florence Reed
15 Marcantel; his wife, Martha deGravelles Marcantel; his second wife, Nancy Ellisor
16 Marcantel; and his infant daughter, Kathryn; and

17 WHEREAS, with the death of Judge Bernard Marcantel, Louisiana has lost one of
18 its finest sons, a quintessential southern gentleman who loved his community and whose
19 accomplishments have left an indelible mark upon his community, state, and nation; and

20 WHEREAS, his death has left a substantial void in the Jennings community and a
21 sense of loss in the citizens whose lives he touched, and his memory shall live forever in the
22 minds and hearts of all those who knew and loved this remarkable man.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
24 does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Judge Bernard
25 Marcantel, records for posterity his outstanding achievements, and extends enduring
26 appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that he will forever bring to the Jennings
27 community, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of America.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
29 family of Judge Bernard Marcantel.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Nancy Vicknair.

SR 223 Original	DIGEST 2018 Regular Session	Morrish
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