

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

BY SENATOR CLAITOR AND REPRESENTATIVES STEVE CARTER AND FOIL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Stanford O. Bardwell Jr., former United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, well-respected Baton Rouge attorney, loving family man, and active community and faith leader.

WHEREAS, Stanford O. Bardwell Jr. was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1940 to Stanford O. Bardwell Sr. and Loyola Munson Bardwell, one of seven children in a boisterous and loving household, and he died peacefully at his home on June 9, 2018, at the age of seventy-eight; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Baton Rouge High School, Mr. Bardwell attended the University of Michigan before returning home, completing his studies at Louisiana State University, and obtaining a law degree from the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bardwell served as the Air Force Corps Commander for the Reserve Officer Training Corps at LSU as an undergraduate, and he entered the United States Air Force on active duty after completing law school; and

WHEREAS, Stanford Bardwell was commissioned as an officer in the Judge Advocate General Corps and served in the Azores Islands, reaching the rank of captain before his honorable discharge, having fulfilled his college commitment made as an undergraduate; and

WHEREAS, having completed his military obligations, Mr. Bardwell returned to Baton Rouge, began practicing law, and, in 1981, he was appointed to serve as the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana by President Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bardwell served in that capacity for five notable years, a time when criminal matters in federal court with high-profile defendants were much in the news in Louisiana with the prosecution of Governor Edwin Edwards in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, high-profile cases overseen by Mr. Bardwell included recently deceased football legend Billy Cannon's guilty plea and testimony against his co-conspirators to distributing counterfeit United States one hundred dollar bills, and the case in Baton Rouge involving Barry Seal who was accused of flying a cargo plane of marijuana into Louisiana, was a government informant in a similar Florida case, and who was murdered soon after signing an affidavit regarding his employment by a South American drug cartel; and

WHEREAS, after five years in this high profile and demanding role in the criminal justice system, Mr. Bardwell resigned and moved with his family to Washington, D.C., where he became deputy general counsel for the United States Department of Energy, an area of the economy and the law that are essential in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, after staying in the nation's capital for only two years, Stanford Bardwell returned to Louisiana in 1988 with considerable expertise in the area of energy law and put those skills to good use in the private practice of law, which he maintained until his retirement six months ago; and

WHEREAS, Stanford Bardwell married the love of his life, Leslie Groves Bardwell, and the devoted couple raised a loving family of one daughter and two sons and, in later years, enjoyed the pleasure of watching their grandchildren grow, and enjoyed being involved in the lives of their entire family; and

WHEREAS, beyond the realm of the law and his family, Mr. Bardwell was deeply committed to his community and to his faith, both of which led him to give generously of himself to numerous social, civic, and political organizations, including the Republican Party of Louisiana, Le Circle de Bacchus, the Rotary Club of Baton Rouge, Cancer Services of Greater Baton Rouge, and the East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board; and

WHEREAS, Stanford Bardwell also served his community well through his commitments to his church, First Presbyterian Church in downtown Baton Rouge, where he was a deacon, an elder, and a Sunday school teacher; through his service as a member of the board of directors of Bill Glass Prison Ministries, where he was involved in evangelical missions in prisons throughout the South; and his spiritual renewal and inspiration experienced while on retreats at Manresa House of Retreats along the banks of the Mississippi river south of Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, Stanford O. Bardwell Jr. spent his seventy-eight years giving of his time, talents, and love to his family, through his profession of the law, and through his religious and civic activities; he was a man who epitomized all that is good about being an American and a dedicated native son of his beloved Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its sincere condolences upon the death of former United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, well-respected attorney, loving family man, and active community and faith leader, Stanford O. Bardwell Jr.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Leslie Groves Bardwell, loving and devoted widow of Stanford O. Bardwell Jr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES