

2019 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 135

BY SENATOR CLAITOR AND REPRESENTATIVE FOIL

COMMENDATIONS. Commends LSU Law Professor George Pugh upon his distinguished legal career.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To commend George W. Pugh, Professor of Law, upon his lengthy and distinguished career
3 as an outstanding educator at the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State
4 University as a prolific legal researcher and as the compiler of the Louisiana Code
5 of Evidence.

6 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that the Legislature of Louisiana acknowledges the
7 lifetime of legal expertise conveyed by the brilliant intellectual and legal scholar, George
8 Willard Pugh; and

9 WHEREAS, a Julius B. Nachman Professor of Law at LSU, Professor Pugh remains
10 a towering figure in the realm of Louisiana law; known as the "intellectual father" of the
11 Louisiana Code of Evidence, his codification of the subject matter required gleaning
12 evidentiary principles dispersed throughout constitutions, codes, statutes, and case law, and
13 crafting those concepts into a comprehensive reference; and

14 WHEREAS, he was the coordinator and coreporter, along with fellow coreporters,
15 who confected the Code of Evidence for the Louisiana State Law Institute, using the Federal
16 Rules of Evidence as its model; it was enacted into state law in 1988; and

17 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Code of Evidence has proved to be an invaluable resource
18 for judges, district attorneys, and other legal professionals; and

1 WHEREAS, he began his studies at LSU in 1942, nonetheless, George volunteered
2 for military duty and was deployed to France during World War II; in 1946 at the age of
3 twenty-one he returned to LSU, and after three semesters entered LSU Law School; and

4 WHEREAS, he would earn a Juris Doctor in 1950, however, during his last semester,
5 he substituted for an ailing professor and taught the evidence course to his classmates; his
6 teaching abilities were of an exceptional quality and noted by Dean Paul M. Hebert; and

7 WHEREAS, his law school counselor, Professor Harriet S. Daggett, encouraged him
8 to attend her alma mater, Yale Law School, on scholarship; he obtained a Doctor of Juridical
9 Science in 1952; his thesis on the history of sovereign immunity was published in the
10 *Louisiana Law Review*; and he rejoined the LSU Law School faculty in the Fall of 1952 as
11 an assistant professor; and

12 WHEREAS, these were exciting times at LSU Law School and George Pugh had the
13 distinct privilege to be in the company of numerous titans of Louisiana law; and

14 WHEREAS, after his appointment to the Judicial Council and serving for two years
15 as the state's first Judicial Administrator for the Louisiana Supreme Court, he resumed his
16 teaching position, became a full professor, and remained at LSU until 1994, having provided
17 forty-three years of extraordinary instruction to nearly three generations of legal
18 professionals; and

19 WHEREAS, during his tenure at LSU, Professor Pugh produced voluminous and
20 influential writings in the areas of Evidence, Criminal Justice, Federal Jurisdiction and
21 Procedure, and Comparative Law; and

22 WHEREAS, in the classroom, his Socratic method prodded novices to prepare
23 thoroughly, to think logically and critically when called upon to summarize a case or defend
24 a position, and to communicate succinctly as proficient attorneys-at-law; it was a "think on
25 your feet" scenario, similar to the demands of litigation in court; there were the quick and
26 the dead; and

27 WHEREAS, many graduates recall his penetrating interrogation in his law review
28 seminar when authors were required to defend their articles before publication; and

29 WHEREAS, no matter how relentless and foreboding Professor Pugh may have
30 appeared to his class, he was greatly admired for his command of evidence law, his

1 reverence for "the facts", and his enthusiasm for jurisprudence; and

2 WHEREAS, his former students also recall his compassion and availability; he often
3 shared informal brown bag lunches with students which were peppered with lively
4 discussions; and

5 WHEREAS, Professor Pugh often initiated stimulating conversations with his
6 colleagues as well to encourage a closer examination of an issue and to propose broader
7 alternatives; and

8 WHEREAS, his profound knowledge of the law led to service on the bench as a
9 judge ad hoc for the Louisiana Court of Appeal, presiding over one thousand sixty cases and
10 as a member of the Council of the Louisiana State Law Institute; and

11 WHEREAS, George Pugh was an active member of the Baton Rouge, the Louisiana,
12 and the American Bar associations and chaired several select committees; he was also a
13 member of American Law Institute; and

14 WHEREAS, his teaching abilities and scholarship garnered invitations to teach as
15 a visiting professor at law schools in Virginia, Texas, Belgium, Greece, and France; and

16 WHEREAS, Professor Pugh was selected as one of six law professors chosen to
17 coordinate special studies of judicial administration in twenty countries; and

18 WHEREAS his field research projects and scholastic pursuits took him abroad to
19 France, South Africa, Vietnam, and the Philippines; and

20 WHEREAS, he received the "Hub" Cotton Faculty Excellence Award at LSU and
21 an honorary doctorate of law from the University of Aix-Marseille III in France, named a
22 Sterling Fellow at Yale Law School, and listed in Who's Who in America; and

23 WHEREAS, George met the beautiful Jean Hemphill on a return train trip to Yale;
24 they were married within a year; their partnership was one of love, romance, and abstract
25 legal thought; an honors graduate from Vassar and an attorney in her own right, Jean was
26 his confidante, his helpmate, and his eyes when his sight failed, and his collaborator for
27 endless discussions on all manner of law; it was a marriage made in heaven that lasted sixty
28 years; and

29 WHEREAS, together they established the George W. and Jean H. Pugh Institute for
30 Justice in 1998, to promote justice for individuals in the administration of criminal and civil

1 justice systems in the state of Louisiana and elsewhere; she remained a strong proponent for
2 criminal justice research until her death in 2012; and

3 WHEREAS, their union was blessed with four sons, William, George Jr. "Rusty",
4 David, and James; three sons became attorneys and the latter became an architect; and

5 WHEREAS, born on Bayou Lafourche near Napoleonville in 1925, and the son and
6 grandson of physicians, George Pugh has always exhibited exceptional scholarship; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1950, Professor Pugh began his teaching career at LSU Law Center
8 and retired, having taught approximately 4000 students; and

9 WHEREAS, upon his retirement in 1994, the Louisiana Law Review dedicated its
10 January publication to Professor Pugh; he had been its editor, associate editor, and a
11 longtime faculty editor of the review; and

12 WHEREAS, he is a dependable friend and consultant to trial and appellate judges
13 who seek his counsel; and

14 WHEREAS, George W. Pugh is a legal theorist without par and one of Louisiana's
15 most influential legal scholars; his expertise reshaped Louisiana evidence law and his
16 teaching has produced multiple generations of law professionals, attorneys, judges, and
17 professors; and

18 WHEREAS, for George W. Pugh, the compilation of the Louisiana Code of Evidence
19 was his passion; he has garnered the respect and praise of his peers, both nationally and
20 internationally; he is admired by his former students and his legal fellows for his intellectual
21 brilliance; and he is treasured as a mentor, colleague, and friend.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
23 commend George W. Pugh upon his distinguished career as a professor of law at Paul M.
24 Hebert Law Center at LSU and does hereby acknowledge his legacy of scholarship and his
25 many contributions made for the betterment of the legal system of Louisiana.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
27 George W. Pugh.

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

SCR 135 Original	DIGEST 2019 Regular Session	Claitor
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Commends George W. Pugh on his distinguished career as a law professor at the LSU Law Center.