

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

CONDOLENCES. Expresses sincere condolences upon the death of Sister Joan Martinette Rivers, OLS.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Sister Joan  
3 Martinette Rivers, OLS.

4 WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that we have learned of the  
5 passing of Sister Joan Martinette Rivers on September 1, 2020, at the age of eighty-four; and

6 WHEREAS, she was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, on August 29, 1936, and  
7 baptized with the name of Joan Anne Rivers which was changed to Mary Martinette Rivers  
8 when she professed as a religious with the Sisters of the Holy Ghost and Mary Immaculate;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Sister Martinette, after making her Final Profession, completed her  
11 Bachelor of Arts in Art and English and her Masters in Theology and Spirituality, but  
12 continued all her life to expand her knowledge base by taking classes, seminars, and  
13 workshops in a variety of subjects; and

14 WHEREAS, Sister Martinette remembered growing up in Zwolle, Louisiana, riding  
15 a wagon to church, pretending to be a religious sister by wearing a towel on her head; and

16 WHEREAS, Sister Martinette was the recipient of the first Humanitarian Award  
17 from the Sabine Hall of Fame in 2019; and

18 WHEREAS, Sister Martinette became a missionary in Bangladesh, where she opened

1 a clinic and a school for the poor and raised money to build homes for the poor after the  
2 tragic flood of 1998, during which 236 homes were built for Muslims, Hindus, and  
3 Christians, as Sister loved them all; and

4 WHEREAS, in recognition of her work in Bangladesh, a school, college, and hospital  
5 were built bearing her name and Hindus and Muslims have named their babies Martinette  
6 after Sister; and

7 WHEREAS, she was garlanded by Pope John Paul II and met Mother Teresa several  
8 times; and

9 WHEREAS, she laughed aging in the face and helped elderly persons as a  
10 gerontologist at Azalea Estates by celebrating occasions, singing, dancing, and always  
11 flitting around like a butterfly, which she loved so dearly; and

12 WHEREAS, the bishop conducting the funeral service at Our Lady of Sorrows  
13 convent, said Sister Martinette was a lady of great joy; and

14 WHEREAS, Sister Martinette did not enter a room; she was the room, filling it with  
15 humor; and

16 WHEREAS, she was multilingual, knowing eight languages; people were making  
17 comments during the online services in Italian, Portugese, and Spanish; and

18 WHEREAS, Sister Martinette was a longtime participant at Mini Med School in  
19 Shreveport, was very involved with pro-life and interfaith groups in Shreveport-Bossier,  
20 with the World Religion group being her favorite, wrote for the local Catholic Connection,  
21 was a diocesan spiritual director, and hoped to finish writing her book, "*The Delights of*  
22 *Aging*"; and

23 WHEREAS, Sister Martinette helped the "Four Ls": the lost, the last, the least, and  
24 the lowest of all peoples, leaving footprints on many lives; and

25 WHEREAS, she was described as a human dynamo because she was a passionate,  
26 enthusiastic, determined individual who embraced strength, was protective of the poor, and  
27 always pressed forward with conviction; and

28 WHEREAS, Sister Martinette served the Lord with gladness throughout her life in  
29 Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and abroad; and

30 WHEREAS, she will be remembered by all of those who were blessed to know her

1 as a lady of great joy and faithfulness.

2           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
3 express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Sister Joan Martinette  
4 Rivers, OLS.

5           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
6 Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Ann S. Brown.

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DIGEST

SCR 7 Original

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