

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Sister Martinette became a missionary in Bangladesh, where she opened a clinic and a school for the poor and raised money to build homes for the poor after the tragic flood of 1998, during which 236 homes were built for Muslims, Hindus, and Christians, as Sister loved them all; and

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

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

WHEREAS, she laughed aging in the face and helped elderly persons as a gerontologist at Azalea Estates by celebrating occasions, singing, dancing, and always

flitting around like a butterfly, which she loved so dearly; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, she will be remembered by all of those who were blessed to know her as a lady of great joy and faithfulness.

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES