

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 13

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences on the death of Louis Woodson.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death
3 of Louis Woodson, an outstanding businessman and entrepreneur from Lafayette,
4 Louisiana.

5 WHEREAS, Louis Woodson was born to George Woodson and Simonia Carriere
6 Woodson in Leonville, Louisiana, on October 28, 1923, and died a quiet death at his home
7 in Lafayette on September 26, 2020; and

8 WHEREAS, Louis Woodson lived most of his life in Lafayette and considered that
9 his hometown; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Woodson was educated in Lafayette and when the Japanese
11 attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, beginning the United States engagement in World War II,
12 he was an engineering student at Southwestern Louisiana Institute (SLI), now the University
13 of Louisiana at Lafayette; and

14 WHEREAS, Louis Woodson enlisted in the United States Navy in 1944 and was
15 proud to serve as a radar technician aboard the heavy cruiser, USS Wichita and saw action
16 in the Battle for Okinawa which took place from the first of April 1945, until victory on
17 July 2, 1945; and

18 WHEREAS, from Okinawa and following the detonation of the second atomic bomb

1 over Nagasaki, Japan, the USS Wichita led the United States task group into Nagasaki Bay
2 with the stated objective of freeing allied prisoners of war; and

3 WHEREAS, after the end of the war, Louis Woodson was honorably discharged and
4 he returned to Louisiana to marry his sweetheart, Georgia Zeringue, and resume his
5 engineering studies at SLI; and

6 WHEREAS, in 1947 Mr. Woodson graduated from college with a degree in
7 mechanical engineering and began his long and successful career in the burgeoning oil and
8 gas industry booming in south Louisiana in the post-war years; and

9 WHEREAS, Louis Woodson had an entrepreneurial spirit and in 1965, he founded
10 the Woodson Companies, specializing in inland waterway, marsh, and swamp pipeline
11 construction, uniquely necessary in south Louisiana; and

12 WHEREAS, the Woodson Companies was instrumental in the installation of vital
13 pipelines throughout the Gulf Coast region, including those at several United States Strategic
14 Petroleum Reserves facilities, stockpiles of crude oil owned by the federal government to
15 provide a backup supply if the oil supply were to be significantly disrupted; and

16 WHEREAS, in addition to becoming a successful business leader, Mr. Woodson was
17 active in civic endeavors in the community of Lafayette, serving on numerous boards and
18 committees, freely sharing his business expertise and acumen; and

19 WHEREAS, Louis and Georgia Woodson were devout Catholics and their faith was
20 an important component of who they were, how they lived their lives, and how they raised
21 their three beloved daughters; and

22 WHEREAS, Louis Woodson is survived by his loving family: Linda Woodson
23 Doherty and her husband, Mike Doherty; Cheryl Woodson Hendry and her husband, Dr.
24 John Hendry; Paula Woodson Blanchet and her husband, Judge David Blanchet;
25 granddaughter, Michelle Woodson; and step-grandson, George Jason Doherty; and

26 WHEREAS, faith and family were the foundation on which Louis and Georgia
27 Woodson built their lives, loving their children and delighting in their extended family, and
28 treasuring the friendships they made during their lives, and Louis' positive contributions to
29 his community stand as a testament to the values of commitment to faith, family, country,
30 and community which he lived every day of his life.

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
2 does hereby express sincere condolences upon the death of Louis Woodson, an outstanding
3 businessman and entrepreneur in Lafayette, Louisiana.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
5 Linda Woodson Doherty, Cheryl Woodson Hendry, and Paula Woodson Blanchet.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

DIGEST

SR 13 Original

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Boudreaux

Expresses condolences upon the death of Louis Woodson of Lafayette, Louisiana.