

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 16

BY REPRESENTATIVES COUSSAN, DAVIS, EDMONDS, GOUDEAU, JAMES,  
JORDAN, MCKNIGHT, AND SELDERS

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of James

Michell "Jimmy" Bernhard.

WHEREAS, Jimmy was born on December 4, 1925, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to William and Christabell Bernhard; he was a graduate of Catholic High School in Baton Rouge and was honored as one of the school's "Grizzly Greats"; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy attended Louisiana State University, where he was a standout athlete on both the basketball and football teams; he served as captain of the LSU Tigers' football team and also played semi-professional baseball in Baton Rouge while attending LSU; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy married the love of his life, Barbara Savage Bernhard, on April 11, 1953; they had four children and moved to Lafayette to establish their family home and Jimmy's mechanical contracting business; Jimmy led Bernhard Mechanical Contractors for over fifty years; his contracting company remains one of the largest and oldest companies in the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy was very active in both his faith and civic communities; he was a dedicated member of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Lafayette, where he served as an integral member of the Knights of Columbus; Jimmy served as chairman of many charitable events in Lafayette, most notably hosting the Harlem Globetrotters at a fundraiser for Cathedral Carmel High School; and

WHEREAS, James Michell "Jimmy" Bernhard is survived by his wife, Barbara; children, Jim Bernhard, Jr., and his wife Dana Reneau Bernhard, Janice Bernhard Slaughter, Kenneth "Kenny" Bernhard, and his wife Elaine Wimberly Bernhard, and Peggy Elaine Bernhard; brother, Charles R. Bernhard; twelve grandchildren; twelve great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and beloved friends; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy was an exceptionally successful man who was incredibly generous with his time and talents throughout his life; he will be deeply missed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences upon the death of James Michell "Jimmy" Bernhard; does hereby recognize Jimmy for his selfless generosity throughout his life; and does hereby extend sincere hopes and wishes that his family and friends find comfort during this difficult time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of James Michell "Jimmy" Bernhard.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES