

2021 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 35

BY SENATOR REESE

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Shirley Mae Pearce Smith.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the
3 death of Shirley Mae Pearce Smith.

4 WHEREAS, it is with great regret and profound sorrow that the members of the
5 Senate have learned of the passing of Shirley Mae Pearce Smith who died unexpectedly of
6 a bacterial infection in New Orleans, Louisiana, on Friday, April 9, 2021, while visiting her
7 family; and

8 WHEREAS, she was a native of Lake Charles, Louisiana, the daughter of Mabel and
9 Hugh Pearce, and graduated from Lake Charles High School in 1962; and

10 WHEREAS, Shirley Smith also graduated from Louisiana State University in Baton
11 Rouge where she met her future husband, S. Chris Smith III; and

12 WHEREAS, she and Chris lived briefly in New Orleans after college and then
13 returned to his home in Leesville, Louisiana, where she established her family, taught
14 English to generations of nonplussed ninth graders, and lived a robust life in a community
15 she profoundly loved; and

16 WHEREAS, diagnosed with a rare cancer decades ago and given only a few months
17 to live at the time, she persevered, and even thrived, spending the next thirty years traveling,
18 working for local arts and civic groups, fostering personal relationships with her community,

1 and following her intellectual curiosity to the sometimes random, but always fascinating,
2 places it led her; and

3 WHEREAS, she was equally comfortable with an academic book, an old
4 lawnmower, an esoteric piece of indigenous pottery, or an untamed flowerbed, and she
5 cultivated distinct friendships with those who shared her varied interests; and

6 WHEREAS, to her family, she was a model of grace, acceptance, and maturity; and

7 WHEREAS, Shirley Smith was fulfilled in her Roman Catholic faith; its ritual,
8 history, and dogma appealed to her cerebral nature, but more than that, she treasured the
9 connection she felt with the Catholic body, and she devoted much of her talent and energy
10 to its service; and

11 WHEREAS, she is survived by two very grateful sons, S. Christie Smith IV of
12 Leesville, and E. Pearce Smith of New Orleans, and their wives, Dr. Christina Lord and
13 Sushma Jasti Smith; as well as her two brothers, Hugh and John Pearce; and her
14 brother-in-law George Ferguson Smith, all of whom she loved, respected, and chided
15 unabashedly; and

16 WHEREAS, Shirley believed people should devote their charitable outlets towards
17 local projects; and

18 WHEREAS, Shirley Mae Pearce Smith was a great lady who will be sorely missed
19 by her community and state and will always be remembered for her love of family, many
20 passions in life; and her accomplishments resulted in a most fascinating and distinguished
21 life.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
23 does hereby express sincere sympathies upon the loss of Shirley Mae Pearce Smith, wife,
24 mother, community leader, and volunteer who set an extraordinary standard of graciousness
25 and good citizenship for all to emulate, and does hereby extend heartfelt condolences to
26 family, friends, and community upon her death.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
28 sons of Shirley Mae Pearce Smith, S. Christie Smith IV and E. Pearce Smith.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

SR 35 Original	DIGEST 2021 Regular Session	Reese
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Expresses condolences upon the death of Shirley Mae Pearce Smith.