

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 37

BY SENATOR FOIL

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Judge Douglas Marion Gonzales Sr., retired, and to recognize his paramount contributions to the state, to his family and friends, and to his community.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing of a great jurist, gentleman, and family patriarch, Douglas Marion Gonzales Sr., in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on January 22, 2021, at the age of eighty-five years; and

WHEREAS, he was one of Louisiana's best legal minds and a man committed to integrity through excellence and service to his fellow man; and

WHEREAS, Doug was born on December 11, 1935, to Edward Joseph Gonzales Jr. and Ruth Attaway Gonzales; and

WHEREAS, he was a proud graduate of Catholic High School, Class of 1955, and the University of Notre Dame, Class of 1959; and

WHEREAS, Doug graduated from the Louisiana State University school of law in 1963, and was admitted to the Louisiana bar that same year; and

WHEREAS, he was a man of integrity and fortitude, practicing law in the private sector from 1963 to 1967; and

WHEREAS, he served as an Assistant District Attorney for East Baton Rouge Parish from 1967 to 1971; and

WHEREAS, Doug was a man of wisdom, intelligence, and justice who was appointed the first director of the office of the public defender, serving in that post from 1971 to 1972; and

WHEREAS, he was appointed by President Gerald R. Ford to be the United States Attorney for the then newly-created Middle District of Louisiana, serving in that post from

1972 to 1976; and

WHEREAS, Judge Gonzales was elected to the Nineteenth Judicial District Court for the first time in 1976; and

WHEREAS, he went on to be reelected multiple times, serving on the court until 1990, and as chief judge from 1986 until 1990; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Judge Gonzales was elected to the First Circuit Court of Appeal, serving with distinction until retiring in 2002; and

WHEREAS, he was renowned, on both the trial and appellate benches, for his attention to detail and his courtesies to all sides of a case; and

WHEREAS, Doug was a member of the Baton Rouge and American Bar Associations, American Judges Association, and American Judicature Society; and

WHEREAS, he was a man who worked tirelessly for the benefit of others, and selflessly served his community as a proud lifetime member of the Baton Rouge Jaycees and a founding member of the Baton Rouge State Fair Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Doug was a member of Cajun Clickers, the Baton Rouge Power Squadron, the Kiwanis Club, Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, and Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity; and

WHEREAS, he was a staunch supporter, even in his passing, of the Catholic High School Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Doug was a man of faith and values, and a longtime member of St. Thomas More Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, he is remembered as a generous and talented person who enjoyed many hobbies and was passionate about learning, especially new technologies, and who also loved traveling, especially with groups; and

WHEREAS, Doug was an avid supporter of law enforcement and the military; and

WHEREAS, he was "the life of the party" and never found a social gathering he did not like; and

WHEREAS, Doug was an extraordinary husband, father, grandfather, and friend, who is survived by his loving wife of fifty-four years, Gail Webre Gonzales; his children, Dr. Douglas M. Gonzales Jr. (Diane) and Kelly Gonzales Rohwedder (Edward); his

grandchildren, Drew and Anna Gonzales and Addis and Hong Rohwedder; his brother, Edward J. Gonzales III; his sister-in-law, Ann Gonzales; and his nephew, Edward J. Gonzales IV; and

WHEREAS, the memory of Douglas Marion Gonzales Sr. will always remain in the hearts of his family and friends, who will forever reap the benefits of his lifetime of achievement; and

WHEREAS, he represented all that is good about Louisiana as a man with unique gifts and a charitable spirit, and with his passing, Louisiana has lost one of its finest citizens who left an indelible mark on the lives of the many individuals whom he touched with his truly inspiring qualities and generosity, and who is now terribly missed but will never be forgotten.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family of Judge Douglas Marion Gonzales Sr., retired, upon the occasion of his death, and does hereby recognize and record for posterity his paramount contributions to the state, to his family and friends, and to his community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its appreciation for Judge Gonzales' enduring contributions, which shall long continue to be a source of deep honor for the city of Baton Rouge, the state of Louisiana, and beyond, and does hereby pay tribute to his remarkable legacy, which shall live long in the hearts of those who were touched by his humanity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his wife, Gail Webre Gonzales.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE