

1 WHEREAS, upon graduation, the young couple moved to Baton Rouge where Vic
2 attended graduate school at Louisiana State University and began his teaching and coaching
3 career at Broadmoor High School and then at Redemptorist High School before returning
4 to collegiate competition as an assistant coach for McNeese State University; and

5 WHEREAS, as they settled into their new life in the Lake Charles area, Terry began
6 her career in public service as a legal assistant for the office of the district attorney in
7 Calcasieu Parish; and

8 WHEREAS, Vic's last football season at McNeese State University gave way to an
9 entirely new season when he was recruited by State Farm to become the local agent for Moss
10 Bluff, a position he enjoyed for twenty-five years; and

11 WHEREAS, throughout their careers, Vic and Terry had a genuine interest and love
12 for the people they served, they tirelessly invested in their community and church, and they
13 were always open to change that often, but not always, brought growth and opportunity into
14 their lives; and

15 WHEREAS, Vic Stelly answered the call to public service by holding both local and
16 state offices; he was a member of the Calcasieu Parish School Board and a member of the
17 Louisiana House of Representatives; and

18 WHEREAS, he served on the school board from 1983 through 1987 and did not seek
19 reelection because he stated: "I felt like I had done what the people had asked me to do, to
20 get our schools in good shape"; and

21 WHEREAS, with no plans to run for another elected office, Vic Stelly began fielding
22 numerous requests to then become the next state representative for District 35, and without
23 hesitation, he entered the race and won and spent the next sixteen years in Baton Rouge
24 crafting policies with the people's best interest at heart; and

25 WHEREAS, he served with unwavering dedication as a member of the Louisiana
26 House of Representatives from 1988 through 2004 representing the concerns of residents of
27 District 35; and

28 WHEREAS, noted as one of his biggest and most impressive political victories
29 during his tenure, Mr. Stelly's desire to create more fiscal stability for the state by swapping
30 higher income taxes for sales taxes on food, prescription drugs, and utilities was approved

1 by the voters in 2002; and

2 WHEREAS, Vic Stelly is remembered by his colleagues in the House of
3 Representatives as a fine gentleman and a true statesman and as a man of great character and
4 integrity who led by example and was committed and dedicated to his community; and

5 WHEREAS, throughout her husband's long career in public service, Terry Stelly was
6 with her husband every step of the way, from traveling across the state to gain support for
7 the Stelly Plan, to accompanying Vic to his induction ceremony into the Louisiana Political
8 Hall of Fame in 2006, and to being with him when he returned to Baton Rouge to serve as
9 a member of the Louisiana Board of Regents from 2007 through 2013; and

10 WHEREAS, while the Stellys were committed and hard-working in everything they
11 did, they also took great pleasure in traveling to their favorite vacation spots, making
12 beautiful memories in Orange Beach, Alabama, with their loved ones, and hosting their
13 family and friends at every opportunity; and

14 WHEREAS, when they were together, Vic and Terry Stelly were truly their best
15 selves, and together, they brought cohesion and peace to their family and loved their
16 children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren without limits; and

17 WHEREAS, Vic and Terry Stelly leave to cherish a lifetime of memories of love,
18 wisdom, wit, hard work, and humor to their children, Tracy (Mickey) Fendley, Victor Todd
19 (Lori) Stelly, Toni Stelly Hebert; grandchildren, Lance (Jamie) Fendley, Hannah (Jonathan)
20 Johnson, Hayden Stelly, Hogan Stelly, Henry Stelly, and Emma Hebert; and
21 great-grandchildren, Hudson and Truett Fendley and Faith and Lyn Johnson; and

22 WHEREAS, the passing of Vic and Terry Stelly has left a substantial void in the state
23 of Louisiana and a sense of loss in the people whose lives they touched, and their memory
24 will live forever in the hearts of all those who knew and loved this truly wonderful couple.

25 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
26 extend its deepest and most profound condolences to the family of a great statesman,
27 Honorable Victor Stelly and his wife, Terry Bass Stelly.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to their
29 children, Tracy Fendley, Victor Todd Stelly, and Toni Stelly Hebert.

