

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 103

BY SENATOR CORTEZ

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Eleanor Madeline Lazarus Hays.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the passing of Eleanor Madeline Lazarus Hays on May 5, 2021, at the age of ninety-two; and

WHEREAS, Madeline was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on January 10, 1929, to Leon Guice Lazarus and Eleanor Madeline Swayze Lazarus and was raised in St. Francisville, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, she was a Campfire Girl and participated in Louisiana Girls State, graduated from Julius Freyhan High School as Salutatorian in 1946, and Louisiana State University in 1950 with a degree in Merchandising; and

WHEREAS, Madeline married her sweetheart Magruder "Mac" Goldman Hays on June 10, 1951, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in St. Francisville; and

WHEREAS, the love Madeline and Mac shared together along with their strong Catholic Faith provided a foundation for generations, thus she is survived by two daughters, Mary Elizabeth Hays and her husband Tim Bennett and Susan Eleanor Wallace and her husband Greg; five sons, William Magruder Hays and his wife Deedy, Robert Bruin Hays and his wife, Jan, Thomas Leon Hays and his wife, Karren, David Swayze Hays and his wife, Jon-Ella, and John Patout Hays and his wife, Michelle; and twenty-one grandchildren, Simon, Megan, Lily, Benjamin, Kathryn, Alex, Sawyer, Sarah Joy, Rosalie, Kristofer, Matheau, Peter, Laura, Mary, Jack, Madeline, Theresa, Michael Magruder, Anna, Katherine and Jonathan; and twenty great-grandchildren, Wesley, Julianne, Elise, Madison, Mollie, Samuel, Ava, Roman, James, Henry, Mary-Ann, Magruder, Hays, John, Isaac, Ethan,

Marissa, Jaxson, Beau, and Grayson; and

WHEREAS, she was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Magruder; her father, Leon Guice Lazarus; her mother, Eleanor Madeline Swayze Lazarus; and her granddaughter, Eleanor Hays Bennet; and

WHEREAS, Madeline and Mac started their family in Lake Charles, moved to New Orleans for a few years, and have been in Lafayette since 1960; and beginning in 1962, she supported Mac in the opening and operations of Teche Electric Supply; and

WHEREAS, Madeline's passion for community service could be seen through her lifetime as a dedicated volunteer for The American Red Cross beginning as a Red Cross swim teacher and advancing to the level of Water Safety Instructor Trainer; also becoming involved with Red Cross Disaster Services and, in that role, traveling the country, sometimes weeks at a time, to provide disaster aid to those in need; and

WHEREAS, her Red Cross service concluded with her last assignment at the Cajundome shelter after Hurricane Katrina at the age of seventy-six; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her service, she was the first person in Louisiana to receive the Clara Barton Award for Meritorious Volunteer Leadership, the highest honor the American Red Cross bestows on their volunteers, on July 11, 1990; and

WHEREAS, Madeline was a proud member of The Descendants of the Jersey Settlers of Adams County, Mississippi; led by her fifth great-grandfather, Reverend Samuel Swayze, the Jersey Settlers left New Jersey and settled in what is now Kingston, Mississippi, in 1773, and formed the first Protestant Church in the Mississippi Territory; and

WHEREAS, her hobbies included playing the piano and clarinet, traveling, dancing, going to the camp, reading, swimming, and especially going to the beach; and

WHEREAS, Madeline and her husband were active members of the See Saws Square Dance Club and Krewe De Canaille for many years and she served as a Eucharistic Minister at Our Lady of Fatima Roman Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS, the death of Eleanor Madeline Lazarus Hays has occasioned a tremendous sense of loss within the Lafayette community, recalling therein her many years of service and personal interactions with people who knew her to be a kind and remarkable woman and a Lafayette treasure.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its heartfelt sympathies at the passing of Eleanor Madeline Lazarus Hays, the beloved matriarch of her family and an extraordinary community servant, does hereby record for posterity her noteworthy contributions to the state of Louisiana, and does hereby express enduring gratitude for a life so devoted to the public good upon her passing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Eleanor Madeline Lazarus Hays.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE