

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 144

BY REPRESENTATIVES DUPLESSIS, BEAULLIEU, EDMONDS, EMERSON,  
HUGHES, AND PIERRE

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences on the death of Earl Michael Willis

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana  
3 upon the death of Earl Michael Willis.

4 WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of  
5 Representatives has learned of the untimely passing, on May 16, 2021, of Earl Michael  
6 Willis; and

7 WHEREAS, Earl Michael Willis was born on May 29, 1993, in Baton Rouge and  
8 was the beloved son of Earl and Cristal Willis; he grew up in the town of Brusly, Louisiana;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Michael attended Holy Family School from kindergarten until eighth  
11 grade and was a graduate of Catholic High School in Baton Rouge; and

12 WHEREAS, Michael developed a strong connection to God during his formative  
13 years, and his Christian faith and values were an important aspect of his daily life; his faith  
14 was solidified through his close friendship with Father Michael Allelo; and

15 WHEREAS, when Michael was in middle school, his sister, Rachael Lynn, was  
16 diagnosed with cancer, and when she was just twenty-four years old, she passed away; from  
17 that point on, Michael's life was dedicated to his sister's memory; and

18 WHEREAS, Michael and his family participated in many Light the Night events,  
19 which were organized by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society; more recently, Michael and  
20 his wife, Megan, established a nonprofit foundation named "Running for Rachael" in honor  
21 of his sister; and

1           WHEREAS, Michael was passionate about advocacy; he developed this love while  
2 working as a high schooler at River Road Day Care in Port Allen, and his entire adulthood  
3 was devoted to advocating for causes that were important to him; and

4           WHEREAS, during the summer of 2014, Michael worked as an intern in the  
5 Washington, D.C., office of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons; he also worked  
6 as an intern for Louisiana Congressman Bill Cassidy; and

7           WHEREAS, at age twenty, Michael became a legislative assistant to Cindy Bishop  
8 of Checkmate Strategies, and upon his graduation from Louisiana State University, he  
9 became the director of business development for the association management and lobbying  
10 firm; and

11           WHEREAS, Michael graduated from Louisiana State University in May 2015 with  
12 a bachelor of science degree in political science; while at LSU, he was an active member of  
13 the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity; and

14           WHEREAS, from September 2017 until January 2020, Michael served as the South  
15 Louisiana field representative for Congressman Ralph Abraham; and

16           WHEREAS, as vice president of policy for The Center for Development and  
17 Learning, Michael led the center's "Literacy and Economic Development" summit and  
18 planned and led a highly successful "Literacy Day at the Capitol"; and

19           WHEREAS, Michael married the love of his life, Megan Voda, on April 17, 2020;  
20 Michael possessed an incomparable measure of love and devotion for his wife, his parents,  
21 and all of his family; sharing quality time with them was always atop his list of priorities;  
22 and

23           WHEREAS, Michael is survived by his wife, Megan; parents, Earl and Cristal  
24 Willis; brother, Nicholas Boudreaux; nephews, Noah and Nicholas Boudreaux; mother- and  
25 father-in-law, Cris and Tim Voda; sister-in-law, Katie Voda; his honorary nephews Beau  
26 Seymour and Harrison Danna, his honorary nieces Lilly Seymour and Caroline Danna, and  
27 a host of aunts, uncles, extended family, and friends; and

28           WHEREAS, Michael Willis was a truly loving and inspiring individual who always  
29 ensured that those around him felt loved, valued, and appreciated; he will be deeply missed,  
30 but his memory will live on forever in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

1           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
2 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Earl  
3 Michael Willis; does hereby recognize Michael's truly inspiring twenty-seven years of life;  
4 and does hereby extend sincere wishes that his family, friends, and loved ones find comfort  
5 during this difficult time.

6           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
7 family of Earl Michael Willis.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 144 Original

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Duplessis

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