

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 144

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

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES