

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 44

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of Steven Joseph Dupuis Sr.

WHEREAS, it is with great sorrow that the citizens of Lafayette, Louisiana, learned of the passing of Steven J. Dupuis Sr. on January 20, 2022, at the age of seventy-three; and

WHEREAS, he was born June 3, 1948, in Lafayette to Genevieve Houssiere Dupuis and Dr. John Willis Dupuis Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Dupuis grew up to become a strong faith-filled Catholic who wholeheartedly believed in God, attended mass daily, and believed in the power of prayer and healing; and

WHEREAS, Dupuis married Melissa (Missy) Leger and was blessed with eight children: Steven J. Dupuis Jr., Jeffrey P. Dupuis, Dr. Gregory M. Dupuis, Katherine E. Dupuis Martin, Paul L. Dupuis and wife, Mara Malherbe, Grant J. Dupuis, Amelie H. Dupuis, and Angelle G. Dupuis; and

WHEREAS, Dupuis received his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, his Juris Doctorate from the Louisiana State University School of Law, and was admitted to the Louisiana State Bar in 1975; and

WHEREAS, he spent his entire professional career practicing law in Lafayette, Louisiana, for forty-six years specializing in the areas of Commercial and Casualty Litigation, Business Law, Commercial Disputes, Governmental Law, Indian Law – often representing the Coushatta Tribe in Louisiana, Banking, Corporate Transactions, Personal Injury, Commercial Real Estate Law, and General Civil and Criminal Practice; and

WHEREAS, as a litigator on behalf of his clients, Dupuis has handled complex state and federal civil court cases in which he received multimillion dollar verdicts for the plaintiffs or he defeated multimillion dollar claims for the defense; and

WHEREAS, he has been involved in litigation matters on behalf of the state of Louisiana, the parish of Lafayette, the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government, the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office, and the Office of the District Attorney for the 15th Judicial District Court; and

WHEREAS, Dupuis has served as an assistant parish attorney for the Lafayette Parish Government, as first assistant city-parish attorney, and chief legal counsel for the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government; and

WHEREAS, Dupuis handled the transition of the city of Lafayette and the parish of Lafayette into the Lafayette Consolidated Government as its primary attorney who handled the restructure of all boards and commissions for the city of Lafayette and the parish of Lafayette during the consolidation; and

WHEREAS, while serving as chief legal counsel and eventually as city-parish attorney, Dupuis worked on a daily basis with the chief administrative officer and helped accomplish a two hundred million dollar bond issue election which was successful in funding numerous infrastructure projects which had not been accomplished prior to the consolidation; and

WHEREAS, he also served as special counsel to the Lafayette Airport Commission and was appointed and served on numerous occasions as a special assistant attorney general for the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, since January 2004, Dupuis has represented private clients having litigation and transactional interests potentially adverse to local governmental agencies; and

WHEREAS, he represented private clients involving expropriation matters, allegations of alleged breach of ordinances, employees having work-related claims against the governmental entity, individuals having personal injury matters arising out of liability incurred by the governmental entity, commercial real estate development coming within the jurisdiction of the governmental entity, and other such related matters, winning settlements in excess of one million dollars against government entities for his clients; and

WHEREAS, Dupuis was a past director of the Lafayette Parish Bar Association, member of the American Bar Association, the Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association, the American Trial Lawyers Association, and the city attorney division of the Louisiana

Municipal Association; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his loving wife, Melissa Leger, their eight children, six grandchildren: Steven J. Dupuis III, Lily K. Dupuis, Evans B. Dupuis, Alexander S. Dupuis, Charlotte R. Martin, and Lincoln J. Martin; a brother, James H. Dupuis and his wife, Debbie; his father- and mother-in-law, Merlin and Joanne Leger, and numerous nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, John Willis Dupuis III; and

WHEREAS, the personal impact Steven J. Dupuis Sr. has had on the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government and his contributions to the development of the Lafayette community are legendary; and the many appreciative family and friends he was often surrounded by will never forget him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family of Steven Joseph Dupuis Sr. upon the occasion of his passing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his wife, Melissa Leger.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE