

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 82

BY REPRESENTATIVES ECHOLS AND THOMPSON

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences on the death of William "Bill" Morgan Davenport

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of William  
3 "Bill" Morgan Davenport.

4 WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of  
5 Representatives has learned of the death, on April 14, 2022, of William "Bill" Morgan  
6 Davenport; and

7 WHEREAS, William Morgan Davenport was born on April 30, 1940, and he was  
8 raised in the village of Mer Rouge, Louisiana, which was first settled in 1804 by his  
9 ancestor, Josiah Davenport; and

10 WHEREAS, Bill graduated from Mer Rouge High School and then attended the  
11 University of Mississippi; while at Ole Miss, he was a member of the Kappa Alpha Order  
12 social fraternity, and he recounted his college years with the utmost fondness; and

13 WHEREAS, after graduating from Ole Miss, Mr. Davenport joined the United States  
14 Army and National Guard; after serving, he returned to his hometown where he and his  
15 brother, Joe Davenport, III, formed Davenport Bros., a partnership that operated substantial  
16 agricultural holdings; and

17 WHEREAS, Bill and his brother also shared responsibility over another business  
18 venture they undertook, the Andrews Morgan Farming Partnership; the two worked together  
19 until Joe's passing in 2010; seven years after his brother's death, Bill partially retired from  
20 farming; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Davenport was a unique individual who lived by his own personal  
2 beliefs; he will be remembered as a man who was exceptionally reluctant to embrace  
3 modernity and often expressed his yearning for a return to the world of his youth; he never  
4 touched a keyboard over the course of his eighty-two year life and was especially averse to  
5 conversations over the phone, preferring instead to write letters to his friends and family; and

6           WHEREAS, Bill was as beloved for his generosity as he was known for his frugality;  
7 he was an impeccably polite gentleman who was capable of out-swearing a sailor, especially  
8 in his older years; and

9           WHEREAS, Mr. Davenport found his "knockout beauty" in a Monroe, Louisiana-  
10 born woman named Leila Stevens who grew up in Bronxville, New York; he lovingly  
11 referred to Leila as "his favorite Yankee" and recalled that "when they hit the dance floor,  
12 that's what sealed the deal"; the two married on August 15, 1970, and built a home in Mer  
13 Rouge where their union was blessed with two daughters; and

14           WHEREAS, William "Bill" Morgan Davenport leaves to cherish his memory his  
15 daughters, Heather Davenport McCastlain, and her husband Cal, and Leila Davenport Ross,  
16 and her husband Buff; and four grandchildren, William Davenport McCastlain, Margeaux  
17 Stevens McCastlain, William Davenport Ross, and Barlow Mitchell Ross; and

18           WHEREAS, Bill possessed a genuine "iron will" that was most evident during his  
19 successful battles with cancers in an eighteen-month period; he fought valiantly his whole  
20 life and passed with true gratitude and peace; he will be deeply missed but certainly not  
21 forgotten.

22           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
23 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of William  
24 "Bill" Morgan Davenport and does hereby extend sincere wishes that his family and friends  
25 find comfort during this difficult time.

26           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
27 family of William "Bill" Morgan Davenport.

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)]

---

HR 82 Original

2022 Regular Session

Echols

Expresses condolences on the death of William "Bill" Morgan Davenport.