

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 87

BY REPRESENTATIVE GAROFALO

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of The Honorable Robert Joseph Klees.

WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of Representatives has learned of the death, on March 17, 2022, of The Honorable Robert Joseph Klees; and

WHEREAS, Robert Joseph Klees was born in New Orleans and spent most of his life in St. Bernard Parish; he was the son of John Frederick Klees, Jr., and Barbara Livaudais Klees; and

WHEREAS, Judge Klees was a fourth-generation Jesuit High School Blue Jay and a member of the school's graduating class of 1958; he went on to attend the University of Southwestern Louisiana where he served for two years as editor of *L'Acadien* and was a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity; he graduated with a bachelor of science degree in 1963; and

WHEREAS, Judge Klees attended Loyola University School of Law and received a juris doctorate degree in 1966; he completed his education at the University of Virginia where he earned a master of law degree in judicial process; and

WHEREAS, Judge Klees served in the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the United States Air Force from 1966 until 1969 and attained the rank of Captain; after completing his military duties, he entered private legal practice in St. Bernard Parish and later served as an assistant district attorney for Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes from 1972 until 1978; and

WHEREAS, during his years practicing law, Judge Klees tried many cases in both state and federal courts and was admitted to and practiced before the United States Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Judge Klees was elected to the Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal in 1981; he served this court until December 2000, retiring as chief judge; after retiring, he served as Judge Ad Hoc or Judge Pro Tempore in many jurisdictions throughout Louisiana and was universally loved and respected wherever he went; and

WHEREAS, Judge Klees was a tutor, mentor, and confidant to many, including the Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court; he was courtly and kind and always displayed impeccable manners; he was also an active listener who treated everyone with genuine dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Robert Joseph Klees is remembered for his ability to temper justice with compassion; he was a true friend and consummate professional; he will be deeply missed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of The Honorable Robert Joseph Klees; does hereby recognize Judge Klees for his service to state of Louisiana and for his military service; 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 Robert Joseph Klees.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES