

2024 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 16

BY SENATOR ALLAIN

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences on the death of St. Mary Parish Sheriff Blaise Smith.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the
3 death of St. Mary Parish Sheriff Blaise Smith.

4 WHEREAS, it is with solemn regret and heartfelt sorrow that the citizens of St. Mary
5 Parish learned of the loss of St. Mary Parish Sheriff Blaise W. Smith; and

6 WHEREAS, Sheriff Blaise Smith passed away in the afternoon hours of Saturday,
7 February 24, 2024, at the age of seventy-five, surrounded by the love of his family and
8 friends at The Carpenter House of St. Joseph Hospice in Lafayette after bravely facing a
9 prolonged illness; and

10 WHEREAS, Blaise was born into the military family of Bert and Mae Smith on
11 December 7, 1948, in San Diego, California; and

12 WHEREAS, a distinguished veteran of the United States Army, he bravely served
13 in combat in the Vietnam War; and

14 WHEREAS, transitioning from military service, he embarked on a lifelong
15 commitment to law enforcement, dedicating over five decades serving with numerous
16 agencies ultimately culminating in his tenure as Sheriff of St. Mary Parish from 2018 until
17 his passing; and

18 WHEREAS, renowned for his accessible demeanor and unwavering commitment to

1 enhancing community safety, Sheriff Smith prioritized the well-being of his fellow law
2 enforcement officers; and

3 WHEREAS, truly a man with a servant's heart, Sheriff Smith exemplified the
4 meaning of dedication, integrity, faithfulness, compassion, and honesty; and

5 WHEREAS, despite his larger-than-life personality, Sheriff Smith retained humility,
6 never losing sight of his roots or the individuals who supported him throughout his journey;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Sheriff Smith held a priceless collection of stories, masterfully
9 recounted in a way that captivated listeners, evoking laughter and tears alike; and

10 WHEREAS, alongside his dedication to law enforcement, Sheriff Smith remained
11 steadfast in his Christian faith, exemplifying the principles of service and compassion by
12 extending Christ's love to all those he encountered, embodying the essence of selfless
13 devotion and neighborly affection; and

14 WHEREAS, Sheriff Smith led countless church services to bring the word of God
15 to others, preached at an unknown number of funerals for those he knew as well as those he
16 did not; and

17 WHEREAS, Sheriff Smith offered his support to individuals navigating various trials
18 and tribulations, tirelessly striving to convey God's love, solace, and tranquility to those in
19 need; and

20 WHEREAS, a 32nd degree Mason, Sheriff Smith was a member of the Franklin
21 Masonic F. & A. M. Lodge 57 as well as the Breaux Bridge Lodge 746; he was a three-time
22 past Master, served as secretary for 23 years, and served two consecutive years as Chaplain
23 for the 11th Masonic District; and

24 WHEREAS, though Sheriff Smith was a man of many hats, one of his favorites was
25 definitely the red and white hat he wore as one of Santa's helpers along with his wife Karen
26 who gave Mrs. Clause a helping hand; and

27 WHEREAS, when the Christmas season rolled around, the twinkling in his eyes grew
28 bigger and bigger, and whether he was riding in a parade or simply sitting on the bayou side
29 at Franklin's Christmas on the Bayou light display, the joy Sheriff Smith brought to
30 innumerable children and adults was evident and truly mutual; and

