

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 73

BY SENATOR FOIL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family and friends of Frank Paul Simoneaux upon the occasion of his passing.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the passing of Frank Paul Simoneaux, who departed this life peacefully at his home on May 8, 2024, at the age of 90; and

WHEREAS, Frank Paul Simoneaux was married to the love of his life, Marie Lancaster Simoneaux, for almost sixty-three years, and together they built a loving and supportive family; and

WHEREAS, born in Brusly St. Vincent, Louisiana, Frank Paul Simoneaux attended Nichols Junior College before enrolling at Louisiana State University (LSU) in 1954, where he demonstrated academic excellence and a commitment to public service; and

WHEREAS, after serving two years in the United States Army, he returned to LSU and graduated from the LSU Law School in 1961, embarking on a distinguished legal career; and

WHEREAS, Frank returned to active military duty, was promoted to captain, and transferred to the Judge Advocate General Corps., completing thirty years of Reserve and National Guard service before retiring with the rank of colonel; and

WHEREAS, beginning his legal career in Lake Charles, Frank later joined the Baton Rouge law firm Breazeale, Sachse, and Wilson in 1963, where he continued to practice law with distinction; and

WHEREAS, his political career commenced in 1972 when he was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives, serving three terms and becoming a founding member of the Young Turks, a group of legislators dedicated to reforming the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Representative Simoneaux was unanimously elected House Speaker pro tempore, and he earned widespread respect for his integrity, bipartisan collaboration, and legislative achievements, including modernizing marriage equality, lobbying reform, oil and mineral rights reform, and the removal of unconstitutional Jim Crow era state laws; and

WHEREAS, known for his scholarly and courteous demeanor, he was lauded by colleagues as well as the press; named Best Legislator for four consecutive years by the political magazine *Gris Gris*, noting both his ability to work across the aisle and his unwavering integrity; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Governor David Treen appointed him Secretary of Natural Resources, and in 2008, he was elected by the House to the Louisiana Board of Ethics, where he was selected chair by its members; and

WHEREAS, Frank was a founding member of the Bocage Racquet Club, where he remained an active tennis player well into his eighties, and he founded the Greater Baton Rouge Hope Academy, serving children with various disabilities; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of Cadets of the Old War Skule and was inducted into the LSU Law School Hall of Fame and the LSU Hall of Distinction; and

WHEREAS, his devotion to his wife, family, and Catholic faith was paramount in his life, and he leaves behind a legacy of service, commitment, and love.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express the sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Frank Paul Simoneaux upon the occasion of his passing and does hereby commend his exemplary life and dedicated public service.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES