

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 155

BY SENATORS MORRIS, ABRAHAM, BARROW, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, EDMONDS, FESI, HENRY, HENSGENS, JACKSON-ANDREWS, JENKINS, KLEINPETER, LUNEAU, MIGUEZ, MILLER, MIZELL, MYERS, PRESSLY, PRICE, REESE, SEABAUGH, SELDERS, STINE, TALBOT AND WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

To express sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family and friends of Phil Robertson on the occasion of his passing.

WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound sorrow that we have learned of the passing of Phil Alexander Robertson on May 25, 2025; and

WHEREAS, born the fifth of seven children on April 24, 1946, to Merritt and James Robertson in Vivian, Louisiana, Phil's life was defined by hard work, redemption, deep Christian faith, and unshakable family values; and

WHEREAS, the Robertson family lived in rugged conditions, having no electricity, toilet, or bathtub and rarely ventured into town to buy groceries choosing instead to live off the fruits and vegetables grown in their garden; meat from deer, squirrel, fish, and other game they hunted and fished; and the pigs, chickens, and cattle that they raised; and as Phil recalled "It was the 1950s when I was a young boy, but we lived like it was the 1850s, but we were always happy, happy, happy no matter the circumstances"; and

WHEREAS, in 1966 Phil married his high school sweetheart, Marsha "Miss Kay" Carroway, whom he had been dating since 1964 and started a family in Ruston, Louisiana, where Phil's high school athletic ability, winning all-state honors in football, baseball, and track, afforded him the opportunity to attend Louisiana Tech on a football scholarship in the late 1960s; playing first string quarterback for the Bulldogs ahead of Pro Football Hall of Famer Terry Bradshaw; and

WHEREAS, although his love of hunting took precedence over football as it took time away from hunting season, Phil maintained his studies eventually earning a bachelor's degree in physical education and a master's degree in education; and

WHEREAS, as a young man, he struggled to gain control of his life but with the support of "Miss Kay" and his sister, Jan, he found the love of Christ and never turned back; devoting his life to Jesus at the age of twenty-eight he began a life and career around the things he cherished most: hunting, family, and faith; and

WHEREAS, Phil Robertson had a desire to assist souls to find God's love, baptizing many, inspiring thousands, with a spiritual transformation which impacted not only his life but that of his family and others; and

WHEREAS, being an avid duck hunter, Phil became dissatisfied with the existing duck calls on the market and experimented with them, attempting to produce the exact sound of a duck, which led him to develop the "Duck Commander", a double-reeded duck call in 1972, finally receiving a patent and establishing Duck Commander Inc. in 1973; which grew into a multimillion-dollar family business now headed by his son, Willie Robertson, with a motto of "Faith, Family, Ducks"; and

WHEREAS, from 2012 to 2017, Phil as the Robertson Family Patriarch and his wife, "Miss Kay", were portrayed on the hit reality television series "*Duck Dynasty*" which regularly featured his sons, Alan, Jase, Willie, and Jep and Phil's brother, Si; and

WHEREAS, Phil Robertson, through his personality and Duck Commander brand is responsible for an immensely positive economic impact on northeast Louisiana and the entire state; and

WHEREAS, widely admired as a man of strong faith and conviction forged through experiences, high and low, with devotion to family and authenticity in an increasingly complex world, Phil embodied the American spirit of perseverance, independence, and purpose while navigating the challenges of fame and public life; and

WHEREAS, through humble beginnings, intelligence, deep connection to the outdoors, dedication to his Christian faith, family values, and conservative ideals, Phil inspired countless Americans with his example, candor, and ability to remain true to himself as he navigated through new-found challenges of fame and public life, and became an

inspiration to all; and

WHEREAS, Phil Robertson leaves a lasting legacy to be cherished by those who survive him: his wife, Marsha Kay "Miss Kay" Carroway Robertson; his sons Alan (Lisa), Jase (Missy), Willie (Korie), and Jep (Jessica); his daughter Phyllis Thomas (Tony); his brother Si Robertson (Christine), and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Phil Alexander Robertson on the occasion of his passing and further acknowledges his contributions as an innovator, cultural figure, and successful entrepreneur whose Christian values became a guiding force throughout his life and the life of others.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Phil Alexander Robertson.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE