

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 19

BY SENATOR FOIL

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Grady R. Hazel, CPA, CGMA, and to honor his extraordinary life, leadership, and enduring contributions to the state of Louisiana and the accounting profession.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that the members of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the passing of Grady R. Hazel, on February 14, 2026, at the age of seventy-eight; and

WHEREAS, born on November 26, 1947, in Jennings, Louisiana, Grady demonstrated leadership early in life, serving as senior class president at Broadmoor High School before attending Louisiana State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and a Master of Business Administration; and

WHEREAS, Grady began his distinguished career with the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board as an assistant auditor and rose through the ranks to serve as Associate Superintendent of Business Affairs, dedicating twenty-three years to public service before assuming the role of executive director of the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants in 1995, a position he held with distinction until 2012; and

WHEREAS, as executive director, Grady was a tireless and principled advocate for the CPA profession, working collaboratively with the Louisiana Legislature, the Louisiana Department of Revenue, the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, the Louisiana State Board of Accountancy, and numerous regulatory bodies to safeguard the integrity of the CPA designation and protect the public interest; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, he proudly stood alongside Governor Mike Foster while the Louisiana Accountancy Act was signed into law; and

WHEREAS, during some of Louisiana's most challenging moments, including the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Grady's steady and contemplative leadership guided a membership of more than six thousand strong, helping CPAs rebuild their practices so they could, in turn, help businesses, families, and communities recover while demonstrating compassion, resilience, and unwavering resolve; and

WHEREAS, Grady was known for his calm demeanor, integrity, humility, and wisdom, and he served as a trusted liaison and friend to legislators, often translating complex tax and regulatory matters so that sound and informed decisions could be made; and

WHEREAS, Governor John Bel Edwards appointed Grady to the State Board of Certified Public Accountants of Louisiana to represent parishes in the southeastern region of the state, where he faithfully served until October 2, 2025, including terms as Treasurer and Secretary, embracing with seriousness and honor the responsibility of licensing, regulating, and protecting the CPA profession for the benefit of the public; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Grady was deeply committed to education and mentorship, instructing hundreds of CPAs, particularly in the area of professional ethics, by instilling in them the values of integrity, accountability, and service that would strengthen the profession for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, he concluded his career at The Dunham School in Baton Rouge as chief financial officer, where he continued to lead with quiet strength, serving not only as a financial steward but also as a trusted friend, mentor, and role model to students and colleagues alike; and

WHEREAS, beyond his professional accomplishments, Grady cherished time with his family, enjoyed Baton Rouge's rich cuisine, loved reading, and was a devoted supporter of LSU athletics; and

WHEREAS, left to cherish his memory are his beloved wife, Cindy; his daughters, Kelly King and Ashley Istre; his treasured grandchildren, Parker, Olivia, Camille, and Jack; and his brother, Jim; though he will be deeply missed, his legacy of leadership, kindness, and humble service will endure in the hearts of all who had the privilege to know him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby honor the life and lasting contributions of Grady R. Hazel, CPA, CGMA, and extends its heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, and the countless individuals whose lives were enriched by his example of integrity, service, and steadfast leadership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Grady R. Hazel.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE