

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 46

BY SENATOR ALARIO

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Sarah Whalen, former Louisiana lobbyist.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the
3 passing of Sarah Whalen, former lobbyist and public servant.

4 WHEREAS, it is with great remorse that the Legislature of Louisiana bids farewell
5 to Sarah Whalen, who shall be remembered for her distinguished career as a successful
6 lobbyist for over thirty years and as an invaluable asset to the legislative process; and

7 WHEREAS, Sarah Lee Oldham was born on July 28, 1937, in Como, Mississippi,
8 to parents Margaret and Robert E. Oldham; and

9 WHEREAS, she began her public service career as an assistant in the executive
10 office during the first administration of Governor Edwin W. Edwards in 1972; a few years
11 later she joined the staff of the newly created Interim Emergency Board; and

12 WHEREAS, her career as a lobbyist began when it was largely a male-dominated
13 profession; however Sarah gained the respect of her peers for her lobbying acumen and
14 provided outstanding representation for numerous organizations, such as International
15 Gaming Technology, Louisiana Wholesale Food and Tobacco Distributors, Oracle
16 Corporation, Outdoor Advertising Association of Louisiana, River Parish Council, and the
17 Smokeless Tobacco Council; and

18 WHEREAS, Sarah understood the ways and means of the political process and was

1 as well-versed as anyone in the cast of characters involved in Louisiana's political scene; she
2 could see through the smokescreen and move to the heart of the matter; her work ethic was
3 based on the tenets of honesty, integrity, diligence, and attention to detail; and

4 WHEREAS, Sarah shall be remembered in the Capitol for her beautiful smile, her
5 southern charm, her thoughtful opinions, and her sound advice; and

6 WHEREAS, Sarah Whalen was a beauty with a generosity of spirit that enriched the
7 lives of many; it was that spirit, that effervescence, that is best remembered; and

8 WHEREAS, whether at work or at play, Sarah was always a fierce competitor; she
9 pitted herself against the unruly terrain of the golf links and tennis courts; she loved to dance
10 as long as the music played and after retirement she participated in several ballroom dance
11 competitions; and

12 WHEREAS, Sarah loved life and enjoyed her leisure time with a singular
13 determination that was legendary; she rarely missed an opportunity for fun, whether sharing
14 a meal with friends or traveling the globe, the whole world was her oyster; and

15 WHEREAS, Sarah was passionate about social causes, such as women's issues and
16 the plight of underprivileged children; and

17 WHEREAS, she treated everyone with an equal measure of respect, although she
18 sometimes would sternly critique one's fashion choices; and

19 WHEREAS, Sarah could be brash, but also focused and funny, intense and
20 intelligent, affectionate and gracious, and somehow all of these traits at the same time; and

21 WHEREAS, Sarah was a woman of action; she took pride in her role whether it be
22 that of lobbyist, mother, or friend; and

23 WHEREAS, Sarah valiantly fought the good fight against ovarian cancer for nearly
24 five years with extraordinary grace, strength of will, and faith; she lived each moment of her
25 life fully, always determined to make plans for the future; and

26 WHEREAS, surrounded by devoted family and friends and blessed with their love
27 and support, Sarah peacefully slipped away from this life to embrace her God on March 10,
28 2013, a Sunday, a final day of rest after her long and colorful journey; and

29 WHEREAS, while the loss of this most extraordinary woman will long be felt, she
30 leaves a cache of life's important lessons to hold dear; live well, be proud of your

1 accomplishments, shower others with warmth and laughter, and dance as if no one is
2 watching; and

3 WHEREAS, the poet, T. R. Moonshadow, wrote ... *"I'll dance all night, I'll dance*
4 *the pain away, I'll dance until the morning sun graces us with day, I'll dance until I'm numb,*
5 *until I don't feel anymore, I'll dance until I'm gone and don't remember what I'm dancing for,*
6 *I'll dance until you love me, I'll dance the rest of my life, I'll dance until you return by the*
7 *moon's gentle light..."*; and

8 WHEREAS, Sarah Whalen leaves a lasting testament to all to live life with tenacity,
9 exuberance, timeless love, unfaltering faith, unyielding strength, boundless courage, and
10 sense of purpose.

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
12 extend its sincere condolences to the family and friends of Sarah Whalen.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Sarah Whalen shall hereby be remembered for
14 her service to the legislative process in Louisiana and for her zest for life.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to her
16 sons, Terry and Tracey Whalen.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Susan P. Montague.

DIGEST

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