

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 183

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX AND SENATOR GALLOT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Cecilia Metoyer Balthazar of Cane River.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the Louisiana House of Representatives has learned of the death of Mrs. Cecilia Metoyer Balthazar of Cane River, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, so safe and precious was she in the eyes of God, that He carefully considered the time for her to come to another level of peace on Wednesday, May 22, 2013, at the age of ninety-three; and

WHEREAS, Cecilia Arcene Metoyer was born on October 12, 1919, in Melrose, Louisiana, to the late Norbert and Lireda Metoyer; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ceil, as she was affectionately known throughout the Cane River community, married the love of her life, J.B. Balthazar, on December 14, 1937, and they remained in holy matrimony for fifty-six years until his death; their union was blessed with twelve children, six boys and six girls; and

WHEREAS, as a lifelong member of St. Augustine Catholic Church, Mrs. Ceil gave the world a glimpse of the power and compassion of God in all of her acts; whether she was leading the rosary, assisting with catechism classes or vacation bible school, making meatpies in the church kitchen, lending a hand at the church fair, greeting her friends and loved ones after mass, or working with the Confraternity of Christian Mothers, an organization in which she proudly held membership for sixty-five years; and

WHEREAS, even when she was tired, Mrs. Ceil gave selflessly of herself to her family, her church, and her community, and she will always be remembered for her smile, her great words of wisdom, and her spirit that lit up the room; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ceil was a loving and devoted daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, godmother, and friend, and the entire Cane River community mourns the loss of this remarkable woman; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ceil was preceded in death by her husband; two sons, James and Cleo Balthazar; one great-grandson, Dylan Balthazar; two brothers, Leo and Thomas Metoyer; and three sisters, Marie Meziere, Clara Llorens, and Rosa Metoyer; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ceil leaves to cherish her memory one sister, Felicity Wills; ten children, Andrew Balthazar and wife Patricia, Helen Rachal and husband Edgar, Dorothy Rachal and husband Patrick, Fred Balthazar and wife Maggie, Lireda Balthazar, Leslie Balthazar and wife Cindy, Cecilia Marie Jones and husband Pete, Josephine Roque and husband Clyde, Donald Balthazar, and Catherine Rachal and husband Henry; other devoted family members, Lorenza Balthazar, Bernard Metoyer and wife Angela, Andrew Balthazar, Jr. and wife Kathy, and Eric J. Balthazar; thirty-two grandchildren, forty-seven great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, godchildren, relatives, and friends; and

WHEREAS, the promise of the afterlife that Mrs. Ceil is assuredly partaking in is illustrated in the hymn "On Eagles Wings", which states, "And He will raise you up, On Eagle's wings, Bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of His hands"; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ceil was a matriarch of the Cane River colony of Creoles, a woman of grace, beauty, compassion, and tremendous faith who was highly admired and respected for the delicious dishes that she prepared at community gatherings, her unbreakable commitment to her family, and her unceasing faith in God; and

WHEREAS, far beyond our feeble and finite understanding, Mrs. Ceil now enjoys the truth of 1 Corinthians 2:9, "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, and no mind has imagined the splendor that God has prepared for those who love Him"; and

WHEREAS, with the death of Mrs. Cecilia Balthazar, Louisiana has lost one of her finest daughters, and she leaves behind a rich and unique legacy of tenacity, determination, integrity, strength, and a strong belief in prayer; and

WHEREAS, the death of Mrs. Ceil has left an abiding void in the many lives she touched throughout her life, and her memory shall remain eternal in the hearts and minds of all those who knew and loved her.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its sincere sorrow and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Cecilia Arcene Metoyer Balthazar, does hereby recognize her extraordinary faith and many years of service to St. Augustine Catholic Church, the Confraternity of Christian Mothers, and the Cane River community, does hereby record for posterity her tremendous gifts and capacity to love, her outstanding abilities as a cook, and her generosity and kindness, does hereby extend appreciation for her enduring legacy that will continue to be a source of great pride, inspiration, and honor for her family and friends, her community, and the state of Louisiana, and does hereby express the deep regret of the entire state upon the loss of this magnificent woman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Cecilia Arcene Metoyer Balthazar.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE