

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 55

BY REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON AND SENATORS GALLOT AND WALSWORTH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express condolences upon the death of former United States Marshall and Claiborne Parish Sheriff J.R. Oakes.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the death of J.R. Oakes on Thursday, January 9, 2014, at Northern Louisiana Medical Center in Ruston, Louisiana, following a lengthy illness; and

WHEREAS, J.R. Oakes was an outstanding public servant whose excellence as a sheriff merited his consistent re-election to office for twenty-five years, during which time he fully used every opportunity to serve the citizens of Claiborne Parish in an honorable and dedicated manner; and

WHEREAS, J.R. Oakes was born on June 30, 1929, in Homer, Louisiana, to James Madison Oakes and Sallie Gryder Oakes; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Oakes was ordained as a deacon in the First Baptist Church of Homer in 1954; he faithfully served his church as a deacon in various positions for more than sixty years; and

WHEREAS, service in his church and community was a prominent characteristic of his life; he was a longtime member of the Homer Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, Homer Jaycees, and the Homer Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Oakes served as the sheriff of Claiborne Parish from 1968 to 1993, when he was nominated by United States Senators J. Bennett Johnston and John Breaux to serve as the U.S. Marshall for the Western District of Louisiana; upon his nomination, Mr. Oakes was confirmed by the Senate and appointed by President Bill Clinton; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Oakes was superbly devoted to God, his family, and his many friends; he loved public service and held a special affection for all of his friends that worked in law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Oakes was preceded in death by his parents and his first wife, Jemmie Vardeman Oakes, to whom he was married from 1954 to 1990; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Oakes is survived by his wife Juanita Stone Oakes; one daughter, Paula Jane Oakes Sears; one son, James Madison Oakes and wife Tammie; and five grandchildren, Hilary and Shelby Sears, and John, Ty and Matt Oakes; and

WHEREAS, it is with heavy hearts that the entire state says goodbye to one of Louisiana's finest sons and empathizes with the tremendous pain that Mr. Oakes' family and friends are suffering and joins them in mourning the loss of this extraordinary gentleman; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Oakes will forever be respected and remembered by his fellow citizens for his singular contributions as a most personable and selfless sheriff and for his steadfast commitment to the citizens of Claiborne Parish, his family and friends, and his community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express deepest sympathy to the family of J.R. Oakes, and offer prayers and thoughts during this difficult time, does hereby recognize the enduring impact that he had on the lives of his fellow citizens, does hereby extend the hope that his family and friends will be granted the strength they need to cope with the loss of this outstanding citizen whose memory shall live forever in the minds and hearts of all who knew and loved him, and does hereby extend appreciation for his enduring legacy that will forever bring great pride and honor to Claiborne Parish and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of J.R. Oakes.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE