

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 67

BY SENATORS ALARIO, ADLEY, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of former Louisiana legislator Francis E. "Hank" Lauricella.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the
3 passing of a beloved gentleman, renowned real estate businessman, community
4 activist, and former member of both the Louisiana House of Representatives and the
5 Louisiana State Senate, the Honorable Francis E. "Hank" Lauricella, and to celebrate
6 a life well spent in service to the betterment of the state of Louisiana.

7 WHEREAS, it was with deep remorse that the membership of the Legislature of
8 Louisiana had learned of the passing of a longtime colleague from the parish of Jefferson,
9 former Senator Hank Lauricella, on Saturday, March 22, 2014, at the age of eighty-three;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, a thoughtful and gentle person, he possessed a dynamic personality, was
12 well known for his stellar athletic prowess on the gridiron and for his dedicated legislative
13 service to the state that spanned more than three decades; and

14 WHEREAS, Francis Edward Lauricella was born on October 9, 1930, in Harahan to
15 parents, John and Theresa Sherling Lauricella; and

16 WHEREAS, at age ten, he enrolled at Holy Cross, a Catholic boarding school in
17 New Orleans, and matured into a phenomenal student athlete; he was a four sport letterman,
18 a city-wide batting champion, an all-state halfback that excelled in the single-wing offense,

1 and was known as a "triple threat" tailback in running, passing, and punting maneuvers; and
2 during his sophomore year, the Holy Cross Tigers won the Class AA state football
3 championship in 1945; and

4 WHEREAS, in 1948, he was recruited as a single-wing tailback and defensive safety
5 by Coach Robert Neyland of the University of Tennessee and was a member of what is
6 considered to be the best recruiting class in Volunteers' history; and

7 WHEREAS, his athleticism won him many accolades during his prolific career; he
8 earned the nickname, "Mr. Everything"; he led the Volunteers to a national championship
9 and berths in the 1951 Cotton Bowl and the 1952 Sugar Bowl; and Hank was named an
10 All-American, was voted first runner-up for the Heisman Trophy; won All-Southeastern
11 Conference (SEC) titles, and led the SEC in rushing for over eight hundred yards setting a
12 conference record that stood for thirty-five years, averaging nearly eight yards per carry; and

13 WHEREAS, with an outstanding overall record of 28-4-1 during his varsity career
14 at Tennessee, Hank Lauricella articulated that in life as well as football it was not all
15 glorious victories and that experiencing defeat was an invaluable lesson that made him a
16 better, more humble man; and

17 WHEREAS, Hank Lauricella graduated with a degree in business administration,
18 was drafted by the Detroit Lions in the seventeenth round of the 1952 NFL Draft, played one
19 season of professional football with the Dallas Texans, married his college sweetheart,
20 Betty Valker, served in the military as a first lieutenant in the United States Army Corps of
21 Engineers, and in 1955, returned to Harahan to join his father in the family business that later
22 became Lauricella Land Company, a commercial real estate firm that played a crucial role
23 in the commercial development of large portions of East Jefferson; and

24 WHEREAS, in 1964, Hank Lauricella began his life of public service with election
25 to the first of two terms in the House of Representatives; his committee assignments
26 included the House committees on Appropriations, Labor and Industry, and Affairs of the
27 House; as a legislator, his was diligent, low-keyed, trustworthy, consistent in his views, and
28 the voice of moderation who instinctively sought consensus among differing factions; and

29 WHEREAS, from 1972 until 1996, Hank Lauricella served six consecutive terms in
30 the Senate with focus on economic development, in particular, transportation and industrial

1 diversity which were top priorities throughout his long political career; and

2 WHEREAS, while representing his constituency in Kenner, Harahan, River Ridge,
3 and Metairie, he prompted legislation that benefitted all the greater New Orleans region,
4 including expansion and financial support for the Mercedes-Benz Superdome, the Ernest N.
5 Morial Convention Center, the Louis Armstrong International Airport, and the Port of New
6 Orleans; and

7 WHEREAS, during his lengthy tenure, he served on numerous Senate committees
8 that included Commerce, Judiciary B, and long-running chairmanships on Transportation,
9 Highways, and Public Works and Natural Resources; and he was responsible for capturing
10 needed funding for public works, highway projects, and economic development, including
11 the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Lauricella served on local boards and commissions, as president
13 and member of the Board of Commissioners for the Port of New Orleans, the Louisiana
14 Domed Stadium and Exposition District, and the Public Affairs Research Council; and

15 WHEREAS, Hank Lauricella contributed his knowledge and expertise to many local
16 and regional business organizations, such as the Jefferson Business Council, the Jefferson
17 Edge Task Force, the New Orleans Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the World Trade
18 Center; and

19 WHEREAS, Senator Hank Lauricella was a special man, a very compassionate
20 individual, who received copious acknowledgments and awards during his lifetime; and

21 WHEREAS, he was honored with induction into the Sugar Bowl Hall of Fame in
22 1975, the College Football Hall of Fame in 1981, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in
23 1982, the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in 1983, the Cotton Bowl Hall of Fame in 2005,
24 and the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame in 2013; and

25 WHEREAS, Hank Lauricella followed national and state collegiate football, but his
26 heart was always with his beloved Volunteers, and in 1990, he was honored with selection
27 as a member of an extraordinary squad, the Fifty Year All-University of Tennessee
28 Volunteer Football Team; and

29 WHEREAS, in recognition of his many accomplishments in the political arena,
30 Senator Hank Lauricella was honored with induction into the Louisiana Political Hall of

1 Fame on January 30, 2010; and

2 WHEREAS, Hank Lauricella was a man of vision and foresight; he was a gracious
3 servant of the community who expressed gratitude for his good fortune by participation in
4 all manner of civic, social, and religious interests; and he was a class act; and

5 WHEREAS, Senator Lauricella cultivated many diverse interests; he was very proud
6 of his Italian heritage, was an avid gardener and cook, and was a parishioner at St. Rita
7 Catholic Church; he was a disciplined athlete who remained fit by walking five miles a day
8 until his early 80s; and he read constantly, focusing primarily on the topics of finance,
9 politics, and American history; and

10 WHEREAS, Hank Lauricella is survived by his wife of sixty-one years, Betty, and
11 their four sons, Francis Jr., Louis, Marc, and Christopher, and one daughter, Elizabeth L.
12 McStravick, fifteen grandchildren, and a host of extended family and dear friends; and

13 WHEREAS, Winston Churchill once said, "*What is the use of living, if it be not to*
14 *strive for noble causes and to make this muddled world a better place for those who will live*
15 *in it after we are gone?*"; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator Hank Lauricella was such a man and with his passing the
17 Legislature of Louisiana has lost a dear friend and colleague and the citizens of Louisiana
18 have lost a dedicated, compassionate public servant; and

19 WHEREAS, in death, Hank Lauricella leaves a tremendous void in his community
20 and in this state, however, he also leaves a rich and unique legacy of public service in the
21 annals of Louisiana's political history, and he shall remain as a fond remembrance in the
22 hearts of all who knew him.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
24 express its sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the passing of the Honorable Francis E.
25 "Hank " Lauricella, longtime friend, gentleman, businessman, civic activist, and legislator.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that his was a life well spent in the service to his
27 community, his state, his country, and his God.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
29 family of Senator Hank Lauricella.

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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SCR No. 67

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