



1           WHEREAS, he also served from 1976 to 1980 in the Louisiana State Senate, always  
2 working for a higher quality of life for all of the citizens of the state, and becoming the first  
3 Republican elected to hold a state Senate seat since reconstruction; and

4           WHEREAS, Edwards was a successful businessman, a certified flight instructor and  
5 an accomplished farmer, known for his conservation concerns and appointed by President  
6 Richard Nixon to head a White House conservation initiative; and

7           WHEREAS, he also served as the chairman of the board of the Bank of Oak Ridge,  
8 served on the board of commissioners of the Morehouse General Hospital, and was a  
9 member and past president of the Oak Ridge Lions Club; and

10          WHEREAS, Edwards was also a very active member of the Masons and served as  
11 the past master of the Brookville Masonic Lodge Number 161 and on the executive  
12 committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana; and

13          WHEREAS, he also returned to college later in life and earned a master's degree in  
14 ornithology from the University of Louisiana at Monroe, previously known as Northeast  
15 Louisiana State College; and

16          WHEREAS, Edwards is cherished and will be dearly missed by his wife of fifty-six  
17 years, Bennie Faye; his children, Ben Edwards Barham II and wife Bonnie, Erle West  
18 Barham and wife Trudy, Robert Berry Barham and wife Camille, and Amy Barham  
19 Westbrook and husband Scott; and his two brothers, Thomas West Barham and Robert  
20 Jocelyn Barham.

21          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
22 extend its deepest and most profound condolences to the family of former state Senator Erle  
23 Edwards Barham for the immeasurable loss they have suffered with the passing of such a  
24 compassionate and giving man who was known as a gifted story teller, historian, and true  
25 southern gentleman.

26          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
27 family of former state Senator Erle Edwards Barham.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

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SCR 38 Original

DIGEST  
2015 Regular Session

Walsworth

Expresses condolences upon the death of former state Senator Erle Edwards Barham.