

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

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

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of Charles H. Tubre of New Orleans, a kind and caring individual who worked tirelessly as a champion for the rights of the disabled and the elderly as a consultant, public servant, educator, and administrator.

WHEREAS, Charles Tubre passed peacefully from this life on December 18, 2014, at the age of seventy-three; and

WHEREAS, he was a gentleman and lifelong crusader for the concerns of the physically handicapped, mentally disabled, and the elderly; he improved the quality of life for disabled individuals, in particular, through the improved availability and ready access of public transportation, housing, education, and cultural venues; and

WHEREAS, during his lifetime, Charles Tubre had a far-reaching effect on the removal of physical barriers in public places that inhibited the access of the handicapped to all manner of public services in the city of New Orleans and throughout the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Charles Tubre experienced, firsthand, the obstacles and limitations placed upon the physically disabled by society; he had been wheelchair-bound since the age of fourteen due to a spinal cord injury; and

WHEREAS, fearlessly, Charles did not let anyone or anything stand in his way; he led the full life that his parents encouraged him to lead; they instilled in him the ambition and fortitude to follow his dreams and become a contributing member of the community; and

WHEREAS, Charles did exactly that by becoming a frequent spokesman for the rights of the disabled; he advocated the tenets of independent living; he lobbied local and

state lawmakers concerning the availability of handicapped services and the removal of physical barriers to public transportation; and in 1979, he completed a Bachelor of Arts in sociology from the University of New Orleans with special emphasis on the study of handicapped individuals and community-based support services for the disabled; and

WHEREAS, his tenure in support services advocacy included positions as president and executive director of the Independent Living Center, as services coordinator for state-sponsored programs for handicapped children, as manager of the Disability Prevention Program within the state office of public health, and as director of advocacy and community relations for Resources for Independent Living, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, he was appointed to the Mayor's Advisory Council for Citizens with Disabilities, the Regional Transit Authority's Special Transit Advisory Committee, and the Governor's Advisory Council on Disabilities Affairs; and

WHEREAS, from 2001 until his death, Charles Tubre had a profound and far-reaching effect on the delivery of essential services as a systems advocacy specialist and program director for the Advocacy Center, a state program that functions as a clearinghouse for public assistance programs made available to the elderly and individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, as a tireless proponent of access for all with a wealth of understanding of the legislative process, Charles Tubre ably worked throughout government to best assist disabled Louisianians while always conducting himself at the acme of his profession; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the Advocacy Center dedicated its new administration office at 8325 Oak Street in the Carrollton-Riverbend neighborhood in his honor; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishments of Charles Tubre, both great and small, may seem incidental to the able-bodied; however, to the physically challenged, these improvements were uplifting and life-changing, such as the purchase of specialized vehicles for disabled college students, the guarantee of accessible housing through Section 8 federal grants, and the funding for personal care attendants for adults with disabilities who sought to live independently; and

WHEREAS, Charles Tubre's light shone brightest in the establishment of high standards of handicapped access in public transportation in New Orleans; local

thoroughfares and cultural venues now provide readily accessible wheelchair ramps; and the use of mobility devices on streetcars and taxis enhance the travel experience of disabled tourists, as well as the local populous; and

WHEREAS, Charles Tubre had an admirable work ethic; he believed that if you wished to feel positive about your work product, then working at the Advocacy Center would offer that sweet sense of satisfaction; and

WHEREAS, in his leisure time, Charles delighted in the plethora of culture that surrounded him and he found great satisfaction in artistic expression and painting; and

WHEREAS, Charles Tubre embraced a *joie de vivre*, the joy of life that was reflected in his belief that his physical limitations were lessened by the capacity of his mind to dream and his heart to love; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his father, Richard D. Tubre Sr., mother, Wilma Johnson Tubre, and sister, Ruth Ann Tanner; and

WHEREAS, Charles Tubre shall be remembered fondly for his unselfish acts of kindness, his determination, his lifetime of significant contributions of improved accessibility standards and support services afforded to the disabled citizens of this state, and his distinguished service to the New Orleans community, both personally and professionally.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere condolences on the passing of Charles H. Tubre, a person blessed with an immeasurable capacity of empathy for his fellow man.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his family, Douglas Tubre, William Tubre, and Brenda Tubre, and to the Advocacy Center in New Orleans.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES