

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 209

BY REPRESENTATIVES NANCY LANDRY, BARRAS, STUART BISHOP, TERRY LANDRY, MONTOUCET, ORTEGO, PIERRE, AND ROBIDEAUX AND SENATORS CORTEZ, GUILLORY, MILLS, AND PERRY

COMMENDATIONS: Commends the Honorable Kaliste Saloom, Jr., upon his contributions and accomplishments as a military veteran and as an attorney and judge for the city of Lafayette

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To recognize and record the contributions and accomplishments of the Honorable Kaliste
3 Saloom, Jr., and commend him for his service to Acadiana Parish, the state of
4 Louisiana, and the United States of America.

5 WHEREAS, born on May 15, 1918, in Lafayette, Louisiana, Kaliste Saloom, Jr., is
6 the fifth of seven children of the late Kaliste and Asthma Boustany Saloom; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1939, Judge Saloom earned a bachelor of arts degree from the
8 Southwestern Louisiana Institute of Liberal and Technical Learning, now known as the
9 University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where he also received the university's highest honor,
10 the Outstanding Graduate Award; he pursued his Juris Doctorate from Tulane University
11 Law School in New Orleans; and

12 WHEREAS, in June of 1942, he became a member of the United States Army, just
13 after his law school graduation; and

14 WHEREAS, as a result of his educational background and his knowledge of several
15 languages, including English, French, Spanish, and Arabic, he was selected as a member of
16 the Counterintelligence Corps; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1944, he was selected as one of six American intelligence agents to
18 protect the British Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, during wartime; and

1 WHEREAS, throughout his notable service in the Army, he captured Nazis, Waffen-
2 SS men, American traitors, and war criminals, and he helped apprehend the highest Nazi
3 general in the Hitler youth, Karl Cerff; and

4 WHEREAS, in November of 1945, Kaliste Saloom, Jr., returned to his hometown
5 of Lafayette as a war hero and opened his own law office, where he worked as a private
6 attorney before becoming the city attorney in 1949; and

7 WHEREAS, as the city attorney, he helped design the Lafayette Utilities System,
8 which brought the city's electric, water, and sewage operations to a more modern scale; and

9 WHEREAS, from 1952 until 1983, he served as the sole Lafayette City Court judge,
10 a role in which he strived to encourage unity and obedience to the law, and in community
11 courts, traffic safety, and juvenile programs; Judge Saloom became the first city judge
12 appointed to the judicial council of the Louisiana Supreme Court; he received recognition
13 from the United States Supreme Court and served on the board of directors for the National
14 Center for State Courts; and

15 WHEREAS, Judge Saloom also served on former United States President Jimmy
16 Carter's National Highway Safety Advisory, where he was named the "National 55 MPH"
17 chairman and traveled from state to state to address legislatures and governors; and

18 WHEREAS, under former Attorney General Robert Kennedy, Judge Saloom
19 innovated a system of release under certain conditions in which an honorable citizen would
20 not be held in jail because he could not afford to post bail; and

21 WHEREAS, in 1993, after forty years of dedicated and outstanding service to the city
22 of Lafayette as an attorney and judge, Judge Saloom retired, but he remains a strong
23 advocate for the city; and

24 WHEREAS, on July 18, 2009, the Acadian Museum inducted Judge Saloom into the
25 "Order of the Living Legends" in recognition of his efforts to help shape and define the
26 Cajun culture of Louisiana; and

27 WHEREAS, Judge Saloom is the loving husband of Yvonne; together, they continue
28 to work for the betterment of Lafayette; and

29 WHEREAS, he is the proud father of Kaliste Saloom, III, Leanne Saloom Howell,
30 Douglas Saloom, and Gregory Saloom, all of whom practice law in Louisiana; and

1 WHEREAS, Judge Kaliste Saloom, Jr., remains an inspiration to his fellow citizens
2 for the vital contributions he has made in his military career and his career of highly
3 effective public service, and he merits the highest commendation for his unforgettable
4 contributions to the city of Lafayette, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of
5 America, whose citizens will long reap the benefits of his incomparable legacy of integrity,
6 leadership, and excellence.

7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
8 commend the Honorable Kaliste Saloom, Jr.; does hereby recognize and record for posterity
9 his accomplishments and the historic strides he made as a military veteran and during his
10 forty years of service to Lafayette as an attorney and judge; does hereby express to him the
11 enduring appreciation of the state's citizens; and does hereby extend to him best wishes for
12 full measures of success and happiness in the future.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
14 to Judge Kaliste Saloom, Jr.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Nancy Landry

Commends the Hon. Kaliste Saloom, Jr., upon his many accomplishments and contributions as a military veteran and a highly effective attorney and judge in Lafayette, La.