

2016 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 20

BY REPRESENTATIVE LANCE HARRIS

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Dr. James Weathersby Welch, Jr.

WHEREAS, the members of the Louisiana House of Representatives were saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. James Weathersby Welch, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Dr. and Mrs. James W. Welch, Sr., were pleased to welcome their only son, James Weathersby Welch, Jr., fondly known as "Jim", to the family on June 18, 1937; Jim joined sisters Joellen and Mary Ann in the Welch home; and

WHEREAS, Jim graduated from Bolton High School in 1955 and began his medical training in ophthalmology at Tulane University in New Orleans, where he was chief resident of his class; and

WHEREAS, while studying to become a doctor, Jim Welch answered the call of his country and served in the U.S. Air Force as a flight surgeon in the Vietnam War; after his stint in the Air Force, he returned to New Orleans to complete his medical training; Dr. Welch practiced ophthalmology in his hometown of Alexandria for thirty-eight years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Welch traveled to Mexico as a volunteer eye surgeon and worked diligently to restore sight to those who could not afford traditional eye care; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Welch played tennis for many years with a group of friends, and Thursday and Saturday afternoon tennis matches were among his greatest joys; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Welch, Jr., is survived by his wife of thirty-two years, Elizabeth "Libba" Asher Welch; his children, Deborah, Cyntaya, and Julie Welch, Eleanor Kuraishi, and James W. Welch, III; his grandchildren, Ben Thevenet, Cameron Thevenet, C.J. Derecskey, Chaily Derecskey, and May Kuraishi; his sisters; his aunt, Pat Welch; and former wife, May Louise White; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Welch, Jr., will be remembered by his colleagues, medical personnel, and patients as a caring physician who was passionate about his profession; Dr. Welch will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend deepest and most heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of Dr. James Weathersby Welch, Jr., in their time of mourning and does hereby express best hopes and wishes for peace and comfort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Dr. James Weathersby Welch, Jr.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES