

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY SENATORS BOUDREAUX AND CORTEZ

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of William Ward "Bill" Rucks III.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens of Louisiana learned of the death of William Ward "Bill" Rucks III on March 7, 2016, in Lafayette, Louisiana, surrounded by his beloved family; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rucks was born on January 9, 1931, to Dr. William Ward Rucks Jr. and Louise Earthman Rucks; and

WHEREAS, a native of Nashville, Tennessee and former resident of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Mr. Rucks was a resident of Lafayette for the majority of his life; and

WHEREAS, he attended The Webb School in Bell Buckle, Tennessee, was a graduate of Pembroke Country Day Preparatory School in Kansas City, Missouri, and attended the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rucks was an independent petroleum landman and the owner of W.W. Rucks III Oil Properties; and

WHEREAS, he was the president and a member of the board of directors of Westlands Corporation of Lake Charles, and a past member of the Lafayette Association of Petroleum Landmen as well as the American Association of Petroleum Landmen, and was a Certified Petroleum Landman; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rucks served with distinction as a member and president of the board of Lafayette Crime Stoppers and as a member of the Advisory Board of Directors of Iberia Bank; and

WHEREAS, he was a past member of several civic organizations, including the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the Lafayette Economic Development Expressway Commission, the University of Southwestern Louisiana Foundation, the

Louisiana State University Foundation, and the board of directors of Lafayette General Medical Center and Lafayette General Surgical Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rucks was a past chairman of the Cajundome Commission and the Municipal Auditorium Management Board, as well as a past member and chairman of the board of directors of First National Bank; and

WHEREAS, he served as past president of the Greater Southwest Louisiana Mardi Gras Association and a past advisory board member and Commodore of the Krewe of Gabriel; and

WHEREAS, he was also a past vice president of the Lafayette Town House, past president of Oakbourne Country Club, and past charter member of the Petroleum Club of Lafayette; and

WHEREAS, an avid outdoorsman, Mr. Rucks enjoyed hunting and fishing, particularly at the Florence Club in Gueydan, which is owned by his son, and was a jogger, a golfer, and enjoyed playing tennis; and

WHEREAS, left to cherish his memory are his wife of sixty years, Margaret Roy Rucks; two daughters, Margaret Gibson Rucks and Elizabeth Anne Scott; one son, William W. "Billy" Rucks IV; ten grandchildren, Graham Cliffe Laborde, Gibson Theodore Laborde, Garrison Rucks Laborde, William Ward Rucks V, Lane Alexandra R. McKnight, Shaylyn Elizabeth Scott, John Michael Scott, James Anthony Scott, Therese Catherine Scott, and Abigail Grace Scott; three great-grandchildren, Madison Margaret Laborde, Grayson Rucks Laborde, and May Catherine McKnight; and one sister, Peggy Margaret R. McCune; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. William Ward Rucks Jr. and Louise Earthman Rucks; and one sister, Sarah McFarland Rucks; and

WHEREAS, with the death of William Ward "Bill" Rucks III, Louisiana has lost one of its finest sons, a quintessential southern gentleman who loved his community and whose accomplishments have left an indelible mark upon his community, state, and nation; and

WHEREAS, his death has left a substantial void in the Lafayette community and a sense of loss in the citizens whose lives he touched, and his memory shall live forever in the minds and hearts of all those who knew and loved this remarkable gentleman.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of William Ward "Bill" Rucks III, records for posterity his outstanding achievements, and extends enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that he will forever bring to the Lafayette community, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of William Ward "Bill" Rucks III.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE