

2016 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 44

BY SENATORS JOHN SMITH AND GATTI

CONDOLENCES. Expresses sincere condolences upon the death of Don Fulkerson, a volunteer from Illinois, who died while assisting victims of flooding in Louisiana and expresses genuine appreciation and gratitude for his service to the people of the state.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the
3 death of Don Fulkerson, a volunteer from Illinois, who died while assisting victims
4 of flooding in Louisiana and to express genuine appreciation and gratitude for his
5 service to the people of the state.

6 WHEREAS, Donald Fulkerson, a resident of Galatia, Illinois and a member of the
7 First Baptist Church of Galatia and its disaster response team, died of a heart attack while
8 assisting victims of recent floods in Leesville, Louisiana; and

9 WHEREAS, Fulkerson and his wife, Margie, were serving together with the Galatia
10 First Baptist Church Disaster Relief (DR) team who joined with other DR teams from
11 churches in Illinois to assist the victims of wide-spread flooding in Louisiana in March; and

12 WHEREAS, Fulkerson, age seventy-seven, was a dedicated member of his church's
13 disaster first responders and as a member of that team, Fulkerson had been called out to
14 serve at fifteen disaster sites around the country in only the last four years; and

15 WHEREAS, Don and Margie and all team members are trained to respond to natural
16 disasters and, at those sites, the teams provide feeding stations, mobile kitchens, child care
17 and faith support, among other services; and

18 WHEREAS, in the case of disasters involving flooding, these DR volunteers often

1 help homeowners with the clearing of debris and contaminated materials from their flooded
2 properties; and

3 WHEREAS, while neighboring states typically send their first responders to assist
4 in the aftermath of natural disasters, the flooding and damage in March affected many of
5 Louisiana's neighboring states, so the sacrifice and assistance of the disaster relief teams
6 from as far away as Illinois were key to returning many in Louisiana to their homes and a
7 normal life; and

8 WHEREAS, the damage within the state was devastating with nearly seven thousand
9 homes damaged in twenty-eight parishes reaching from the borders with Arkansas and Texas
10 across the middle of the state to parishes all along the I-10 corridor, including the closure of
11 that major east-west artery at the Texas state line for nearly a week and east through
12 Tangipahoa, St. Tammany and Washington parishes; and

13 WHEREAS, at the time of his death on March 29, 2016, Don and Margie were
14 serving together in Leesville and their faithful service to Christ brought great joy to both of
15 them as they served side by side in the ministry of disaster relief; and

16 WHEREAS, services for Don Fulkerson were held at First Baptist Church in Galatia
17 on Saturday, April 2, 2016 and he was laid to rest in Tate's Chapel Cemetery; and

18 WHEREAS, Don Fulkerson and Margie shared a deep and abiding faith and used
19 that faith to bring both support and comfort to those who suffered from natural disasters and
20 their faithful service to disaster victims was deservedly met with gratitude from all
21 Louisianians.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
23 does hereby express sincere condolences upon the death of Don Fulkerson, a volunteer from
24 Illinois, who died while assisting victims of flooding in Louisiana and to express genuine
25 appreciation and gratitude for his service to the people of the state.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
27 Margie Fulkerson of Galatia, Illinois.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

SR 44 Original

DIGEST
2016 Regular Session

John Smith

Expresses the condolences upon the death of Don Fulkerson.