



1 seventh Congressional District, Edwin Edwards was elected governor of Louisiana, and  
2 Elaine Schwartzberg Edwards, at the age of forty-three, became the First Lady of the state  
3 of Louisiana; and

4 WHEREAS, despite not expecting her life to send her into the spotlight and not  
5 having sought the important role of first lady, the shy woman from a small Louisiana town  
6 certainly rose to every challenge in her life and, while she could not have seen herself  
7 serving in the United States Senate, she distinguished herself in every role that she  
8 undertook, including in the United States Senate where she found herself after the sudden  
9 death of long-standing Louisiana Senator Allen Ellender in 1972, as her husband, the  
10 governor, appointed her on August 1, 1972, to serve the remainder of Ellender's term; and

11 WHEREAS, Elaine Edwards represented her state, as she was called upon to do,  
12 including presiding over the Senate for a day, and she served until November 13, 1972,  
13 immediately after the election of J. Bennett Johnston to serve as the successor to Senator  
14 Ellender was certified; and

15 WHEREAS, Elaine Edwards served as First Lady of Louisiana from 1972 through  
16 1980 and when her husband was reelected in 1984, after not being a candidate in 1980  
17 because of a provision in the Louisiana Constitution that limited any governor from serving  
18 more than two consecutive terms, she took up those duties again for a single term, serving  
19 in that capacity for a total of twelve years, more than any First Lady of Louisiana before or  
20 since; and

21 WHEREAS, in 1989, after forty years of marriage, Elaine Edwards and Edwin  
22 Edwards divorced and Mrs. Edwards never remarried, but she led a full and interesting life,  
23 including owning and operating a business involved in the design and manufacture of  
24 custom dresses for clients; and

25 WHEREAS, Mrs. Edwards also had a brief career in New York City, New York, as  
26 an actress in television soap operas, but the center of her life, as she had always wanted it  
27 to be, was her family and she relished in the accomplishments and daily ups and downs of  
28 the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren surrounding her; and

29 WHEREAS, as life slowed down in later years, Elaine Edwards cherished the  
30 moments with her family and enjoyed the unconditional love of that family, which she had

1 always considered her most important endeavor, reflecting her state's belief in the value of  
2 strong families, with a deep sense of community, and a commitment to the ideals of the  
3 indomitable American spirit; and

4 WHEREAS, whether on the campaign trail, at a childhood performance for her  
5 children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren, or on the floor of the United States Senate,  
6 Elaine Schwartzberg Edwards was a smart, unpretentious, warm, and loving woman, and  
7 always an exceptionally gracious representative of the people of her beloved native state of  
8 Louisiana.

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
10 express sincere condolences upon the death of Elaine Schwartzberg Edwards, former First  
11 Lady of Louisiana, a woman who always embodied all the best that Louisiana is as a family-  
12 centered society with a deep sense of community and a commitment to the ideals of the  
13 indomitable American spirit.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
15 Elaine Edwards' family, through her daughter, Anna Edwards.

---

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

---

DIGEST

SCR 18 Original

2018 Second Extraordinary Session

Alario

Expresses condolences upon the death of Elaine Schwartzberg Edwards, former First Lady  
of Louisiana.