

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY SENATORS ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, PRICE, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE AND REPRESENTATIVES ABRAHAM, ABRAMSON, AMEDEE, ANDERS, ARMES, BACALA, BAGLEY, BAGNERIS, BARRAS, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, BISHOP, BOUIE, BRASS, CHAD BROWN, TERRY BROWN, CARMODY, CARPENTER, GARY CARTER, ROBBY CARTER, STEVE CARTER, CHANEY, CONNICK, COUSSAN, COX, CREWS, CROMER, DAVIS, DEVILLIER, DUPLESSIS, DWIGHT, EDMONDS, EMERSON, FALCONER, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, GLOVER, GUINN, HALL, JIMMY HARRIS, LANCE HARRIS, HAVARD, HAZEL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILFERTY, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HORTON, HOWARD, HUNTER, HUVAL, IVEY, JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, JOHNSON, JONES, JORDAN, NANCY LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LYONS, MACK, MAGEE, MARCELLE, MARINO, MCFARLAND, MIGUEZ, DUSTIN MILLER, GREGORY MILLER, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, MUSCARELLO, NORTON, PEARSON, PIERRE, POPE, PUGH, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, SCHEXNAYDER, SEABAUGH, SHADOIN, SIMON, SMITH, STAGNI, STEFANSKI, STOKES, TALBOT, THIBAUT, THOMAS, WHITE, WRIGHT AND ZERINGUE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Elaine Schwartzberg Edwards, former First Lady of Louisiana and a woman who embodied Louisiana's belief in the value of strong families, a deep sense of community, and a commitment to the ideals of the indomitable American spirit.

WHEREAS, Elaine Lucille Schwartzberg was born in Marksville, Louisiana, on March 8, 1929, the only daughter and middle child of Myrl and Errol Schwartzberg and she died on May 14, 2018, in Denham Springs, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Elaine Schwartzberg was educated in the parochial and public schools of Marksville and, having completed her formal education, in 1949, she married her childhood sweetheart, Edwin W. Edwards and the couple moved to Crowley, Louisiana, where her husband began his practice of law; and

WHEREAS, as her husband moved through the early stages of a career in politics beginning with service on the Crowley City Council in 1954, Elaine Edwards was a stay-at-home mother and concentrated on raising the couple's four children: Anna, Victoria, Stephen, and David; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, after her husband had served in the Louisiana House of Representatives and in the United States House of Representatives representing Louisiana's seventh Congressional District, Edwin Edwards was elected governor of Louisiana, and Elaine Schwartzberg Edwards, at the age of forty-three, became the First Lady of the state of Louisiana; and

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, as life slowed down in later years, Elaine Edwards cherished the moments with her family and enjoyed the unconditional love of that family, which she had always considered her most important endeavor, reflecting her state's belief in the value of strong families, with a deep sense of community, and a commitment to the ideals of the indomitable American spirit; and

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

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES