

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana on the death of Father Patrick Joseph "Pat" Mascarella.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Louisiana Legislature have learned of the death of Father Patrick Joseph Mascarella on January 24, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Father Pat Mascarella felt the call of God at a young age, and by the eighth grade, he entered St. Joseph Seminary in St. Benedict, Louisiana; he continued at St. Joseph until he transferred to Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans in 1961, where he completed his education and training; Father Pat was ordained on December 17, 1966; and

WHEREAS, Father Pat was appointed to serve in many parishes in the Diocese of Baton Rouge, including St. Charles Borromeo, St. Therese of Avila, Our Lady of Mercy, St. Isidore the Farmer, Christ the King, St. George, and St. John the Baptist; Father Pat made an indelible impression on many parishioners and lifelong friends at each parish he served; and

WHEREAS, vision problems had always plagued Father Pat; he took a sabbatical to attend the Lafayette School for the Blind, where he learned Braille; as his eyesight declined further, his new guide and companion, Pace, a beautiful yellow lab, helped provide Father Pat an independence he was not willing to give up; and

WHEREAS, despite his blindness, in 2016, Father Pat earned a master's degree in religious studies from Louisiana State University; his master's program included art classes, and he was known to use his art for spiritual focus in his homilies; and

WHEREAS, Father Pat was committed to advocating on behalf of people with disabilities; he served on the Louisiana Rehabilitation Council for one six-year term; with

Pace by his side, he often testified in committee meetings at the state capitol, providing impassioned testimony and a voice for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Father Patrick Joseph Mascarella is survived by his siblings, Lucian Mascarella, and his wife Wilma, Tom Mascarella, and his wife Pat, and Marion Mascarella; his sisters-in-law, Joyce Mascarella and Hazel Mascarella; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews; and

WHEREAS, Father Pat Mascarella possessed a special wisdom derived from both study and experience and will be missed by so many throughout the Baton Rouge area.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Father Patrick Joseph "Pat" Mascarella and does hereby recognize and record for posterity his singular contributions and achievements, which will forever be remembered and continue to be a source of pride and honor for his family and friends, his church, and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Father Patrick Joseph "Pat" Mascarella.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE