

2015 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 120

BY SENATOR ALARIO AND REPRESENTATIVE KLECKLEY

CONDOLENCES. Expresses sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of respected and longtime Capitol Bureau reporter Edmund "Ed" James Anderson Jr.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of
3 respected and longtime Louisiana Capitol Bureau reporter Edmund "Ed" James
4 Anderson Jr.

5 WHEREAS, Edmund "Ed" James Anderson, Jr. was born on September 2, 1947, in
6 New Orleans, Louisiana, and lived his entire life in the great state of Louisiana; and

7 WHEREAS, Ed graduated from his beloved DeLaSalle High School in uptown New
8 Orleans in 1965, a distinction he shared with his longtime friend and former Louisiana
9 Senate President John Hainkel, Louisiana Secretary of State Tom Schedler, and many others;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, in 1969, Ed received a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism with minors in
12 History and English from Loyola University, where he was proud to return to teach
13 Communications as an adjunct professor from 1980 to 1987, selflessly working after hours
14 and on weekends with student journalists to help them develop the skills necessary to
15 succeed in journalism; and

16 WHEREAS, Ed's journalism career began in earnest when the *Times-Picayune* hired
17 him in June 1969 to write as a general assignment reporter in New Orleans and later to serve
18 as assistant night city editor and night city editor between 1971 and 1974; and

1 WHEREAS, Ed began covering the legislature in 1980, commuting from New
2 Orleans to work alongside his mentor, longtime *Times-Picayune* columnist and Capitol
3 reporter Jack Wardlaw, and then, in 1988, Ed moved to Baton Rouge, where he would live
4 for the rest of his life, to report full time from the Times-Picayune Capitol Bureau; and

5 WHEREAS, without argument, Ed distinguished himself working tirelessly to help
6 Louisiana citizens understand some of the key issues facing the state through his coverage
7 of legislation, state agency operations, the governor's office, and statewide politics, covering
8 stories which included the 1973 Louisiana Constitutional Convention and the 1979 New
9 Orleans Police Department strike; and

10 WHEREAS, Ed understood the importance of relationships, establishing trusted
11 friends and sources over the administrations of six different Louisiana governors and more
12 than three decades of the Louisiana Legislature, and he was known for his relentless,
13 thorough, hard-hitting, and, most of all, fair reporting – truly a one-of-a-kind human being;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Ed believed that his most significant contribution to life and journalism
16 as a profession was trying to improve the quality of writing and reporting of government and
17 politics for the average reader so that he or she could make more informed decisions; and

18 WHEREAS, he developed such an institutional knowledge and covered the process
19 for so long that he literally became *part* of the process, counting among his close friends
20 Louisiana Senate President John Alario; and

21 WHEREAS, in September 2012, Ed was laid off from the *Times-Picayune* when it
22 chose to dramatically reduce the number of its reporting staff, at which time Ed left to
23 Louisiana an unparalleled body of news stories and history of Louisiana's legislature,
24 governors, and elected officials at all levels of Louisiana politics; and

25 WHEREAS, in January 2013, Ed accepted a position with Louisiana Legislative
26 Auditor Daryl Purpera as the Senior Report Analyst in the Publishing Section, where he was
27 proud to work with the "watchdogs" in state government; and

28 WHEREAS, Ed held membership and leadership positions in the Press Club of New
29 Orleans, the Society of Professional Journalists, the Gridiron Club of New Orleans, the Press
30 Club of Baton Rouge, and the Capitol Correspondents Association; and

1 WHEREAS, serving as board president on three different occasions for the Capitol
2 Correspondents Association, Ed was so determined to maintain the association's annual
3 Gridiron Show's distinction as "the longest continuously running Gridiron Show in the
4 United States" that he would meet with colleagues and friends two evenings a week from
5 December through March, and then for two weeks of rehearsals before the two-night show,
6 refusing to take solo singing parts; and

7 WHEREAS, Ed was an absolutely devoted Saints fan, having attended the first Saints
8 game ever, as well as the first game the team played in the Superdome after Hurricane
9 Katrina, and he was also a die-hard LSU Tigers fan, bringing his consummate "Monday bad
10 mood" to the office the following week if either or both of his favorite teams lost; and

11 WHEREAS, the true love of Ed's life was Karen Rowley, his long-time fellow-
12 journalist, confidant, and soulmate, a woman who selflessly cared for him in every way and
13 every day throughout not only their long and deepening friendship, but particularly in the
14 last few extremely difficult months; and

15 WHEREAS, after two months in the hospital and an extremely brave battle against
16 blood clots and cancer, Ed passed away in his sleep early on the morning of Thursday, May
17 28, 2015; and

18 WHEREAS, Edmund "Ed" James Anderson Jr. was the embodiment of an excellent
19 journalist who knew the importance of writing for the average person and believed that it
20 was the role of a proper journalist to accurately understand the problems of his state and to
21 contribute back to society by compellingly communicating not only the solutions to those
22 problems but the process in which those solutions were debated and ultimately chosen; and

23 WHEREAS, for more than four action-packed decades, our dear friend Ed – a
24 journalist's journalist – accomplished that very goal with clarity, humility, and the kindest
25 of hearts.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
27 offer its condolences, on behalf of its members present and past and on behalf of the citizens
28 of the state, to the family and friends of Edmund "Ed" James Anderson Jr., a native
29 Louisianian, a preeminent and respected journalist, and a friend who will be sorely missed.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to

1 Karen Rowley and Ed's brother, Craig Anderson.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Julie J. Baxter

SCR DIGEST Alario
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James Anderson Jr.