

2018 Second Extraordinary Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY SENATOR MILKOVICH

COMMENDATIONS. Commends former Louisiana state Senator Bill Keith on his support and endorsement of teaching creationism in the public schools.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To commend former Louisiana state Senator Bill Keith on his support and endorsement of
3 teaching creationism in the public schools.

4 WHEREAS, Bill Keith served as a Louisiana state senator from 1980 until the
5 expiration of his term in 1984, representing District Thirty-nine in Caddo Parish; and

6 WHEREAS, born in 1934 in Oklahoma, Bill Keith was a journalist who worked for
7 the now defunct *Shreveport Journal* as an investigative reporter; and

8 WHEREAS, upon being elected to the Louisiana Senate as a resident of
9 Mooringsport, Louisiana, in Caddo Parish, Bill Keith, a democrat, was a particular
10 proponent of a state law requiring balanced treatment in the instruction of creationism and
11 evolution in public schools; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Keith received national attention for legislation he introduced
13 which required equal emphasis in public school science instruction to creation science and
14 to evolution; and

15 WHEREAS, Bill Keith recalled that his interest in the matter developed in 1978
16 when his then thirteen year old son came home from school to report that a teacher had
17 ridiculed the teen's belief in God as the creator of human life; and

18 WHEREAS, the bill passed both houses of the legislature, was signed by then

1 Governor David Treen, and was entitled the "Balanced Treatment for Creation-Science and
2 Evolution-Science Act"; and

3 WHEREAS, the act required that scientific evidence for creation-science, the view
4 of abrupt appearance of organisms in the fossil records, whenever related material on
5 evolution was presented in science class instruction; and

6 WHEREAS, throughout his legislative career, Bill Keith courageously advocated for
7 the view that the Biblical belief that God created the entire world and human life should be
8 taught in Louisiana's schools; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Keith left Louisiana shortly after his term ended and moved to east
10 Texas where he published a weekly newspaper in Marshall, Texas, and he began his career
11 as a writer of fiction and nonfiction, including his 2009 book *The Commissioner: A True*
12 *Story of Deceit, Dishonor, and Death*, a study of Shreveport Public Safety Commissioner
13 George W. D'Artois who held office in the city for decades until his death in 1977; and

14 WHEREAS, Bill Keith bravely argued that a belief in the God of the Bible and the
15 message of redemption offered through Christ should not be withheld from the school
16 children of Louisiana and the United States, as these beliefs are foundational for a just and
17 moral society in this generation and the generations to come.

18 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
19 commend former Louisiana state Senator Bill Keith on his support and endorsement of
20 teaching creationism in the public schools.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Bill
22 Keith of Longview, Texas.

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

DIGEST

SCR 17 Original

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