

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 32

BY SENATOR HENSGENS

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Rose Ashy Broussard, a cattle rancher and rice farmer from Kaplan, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Rose Ashy was born to Cocab Mahfouz and Richard Ashy on March 19, 1925, the child of proud Lebanese immigrants, and she died on October 9, 2020, at the age of ninety-five; and

WHEREAS, Rose Ashy played basketball for Brinkley High School in Brinkley, Arkansas, and for her alma mater, Lafayette High School in Lafayette, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Rose Ashy married the love of her life, Charles E. Broussard, who predeceased his wife; the couple was married for seventy-two years and raised four children: Richard C. Broussard, Yvonne Broussard Simon, Alan J. Broussard, and Hal J. Broussard; and

WHEREAS, during and after World War II, Rose worked as a teletype operator for Western Union, a vital communication link in the world of the 1940s; and

WHEREAS, Rose Ashy Broussard was engaged with her family, church, and community throughout her life, including involvement in the American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities (ALSAC), an umbrella group founded by the comedian and celebrity Danny Thomas in 1957; and

WHEREAS, the sole purpose of this group is to raise the funds and awareness necessary to operate and maintain St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, which focuses on the treatment of childhood cancer and is a free facility for all children regardless of their family's ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, ALSAC is responsible for raising approximately eighty percent of the funds necessary to operate and maintain St. Jude Hospital that serves children from all fifty of the United States and from around the world; and

WHEREAS, Rose Broussard was a leader in fundraising through ALSAC and she served locally in the roles of secretary and treasurer for the local group; and

WHEREAS, in the area of civic involvement, Mrs. Broussard served as the Lion's Club president of the American Legion Women's Auxiliary, served on the Yambilee Festival Court in Opelousas, Louisiana, and was Chic a la Pie Queen Jambalaya XXIX, a Mardi Gras celebration in Vermilion Parish; and

WHEREAS, service to her church and its congregants included serving as a Catechism teacher for fifteen years; she served as church secretary, and as president of the Immaculate Conception Lady's Altar Society and her dedication and service were acknowledged with the presentation of the Bishop's Service Award for the Diocese of Lafayette, the receipt of the Raywood Mouton Service Award, and the Kaplan Chapter of the Woman of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, keeping her focus on her children and the children of Vermilion Parish, Rose Broussard cofounded the Forked Island Cub Scout Den, serving as its scout leader, she served as a 4-H leader, and worked tirelessly to obtain funding for a Head Start program and for a French language program in the parish; and

WHEREAS, Rose Broussard played a key role in securing funding for the construction of the Louisiana Highway 82 Intracoastal Waterway Bridge which is essential to the travel of residents and visitors to southern Vermilion Parish; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Broussard was politically active and served the Louisiana Democratic party in several capacities, including as a member of the state central committee, as an election commissioner on election day for many years, and as a convention delegate representing Louisiana at the Democratic National Convention; and

WHEREAS, Rose Broussard worked alongside her husband, Charles, on their cattle ranch and rice farm, particularly in marketing and promotional roles; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Broussard was a member of and served as secretary of the Vermilion Parish Cattlewomen, and as publicity chair of the state organization; and

WHEREAS, Rose and Charles traveled extensively regionally, attending annual livestock shows where they promoted the quality of the breeds of cattle they raised: Brahman, Charolais, and Charbray; and

WHEREAS, each March Rose traveled the state during Beef Month and also promoted the "Ag in the Classroom" and the "Beef for Father's Day" programs; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Cattle Festival named Rose their Honoree of the Year, focusing on her tireless advocacy encouraging Louisianians to eat more Louisiana beef; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Broussard served as president of The International Relations Association of Acadiana (TIRAA), a group that worked to expand livestock export opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Rose Ashy Broussard led a full, purposeful life; a life dedicated to her loving husband and family, her church, community, and a prosperous family business, bringing to each a commitment and enthusiasm that has left a rich legacy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere condolences upon the death of Rose Ashy Broussard, a cattle rancher and rice farmer from Kaplan, Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Rose Ashy Broussard through her daughter, Yvonne Broussard Simon.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE