

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 154

BY REPRESENTATIVES GAROFALO, ABRAMSON, ADAMS, ANDERS, ARMES, ARNOLD, BADON, BARRAS, BARROW, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, STUART BISHOP, WESLEY BISHOP, BROADWATER, BROSSETT, BROWN, BURFORD, HENRY BURNS, TIM BURNS, BURRELL, CARMODY, CARTER, CHAMPAGNE, CHANEY, CONNICK, COX, CROMER, DANAHAY, DIXON, DOVE, EDWARDS, FANNIN, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GEYMANN, GISCLAIR, GREENE, GUILLORY, GUINN, HARRIS, HARRISON, HAVARD, HAZEL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HONORE, HOWARD, HUNTER, HUVAL, IVEY, KATRINA JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JOHNSON, JONES, KLECKLEY, LAMBERT, NANCY LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LOPINTO, LORUSSO, MACK, MILLER, MONTOUCET, MORENO, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, NORTON, ORTEGO, PEARSON, PIERRE, PONTI, POPE, PRICE, PUGH, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, RITCHIE, ROBIDEAUX, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHRODER, SEABAUGH, SHADOIN, SIMON, SMITH, ST. GERMAIN, STOKES, TALBOT, THIBAUT, THIERRY, THOMPSON, WHITNEY, ALFRED WILLIAMS, PATRICK WILLIAMS, WILLMOTT, AND WOODRUFF AND SENATORS ADLEY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD, AND WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express condolences upon the death of Judge Manuel "Manny" Adam Fernandez and to express enduring gratitude for his outstanding contributions to the state of Louisiana, particularly during his tenure as a distinguished member of the Louisiana House of Representatives.

WHEREAS, Manuel "Manny" Adam Fernandez was born in St. Bernard Parish on October 15, 1942, to Manuel William Fernandez and Blanche Perez Fernandez Molero; and

WHEREAS, Judge Fernandez attended St. Bernard Parish public schools graduating from St. Bernard High School in 1960 and then attended the University of Southwestern Louisiana (USL) in Lafayette where he earned an undergraduate degree in economics; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation from USL, which is now known as the University of Louisiana, at Lafayette, in 1964, Judge Fernandez enrolled in the Loyola University Law School in New Orleans from whence he earned his Juris Doctorate in 1967; and

WHEREAS, as a practicing attorney for thirty-four years, Judge Fernandez was president and a member of the St. Bernard Bar Association, the Louisiana Bar Association, and had been admitted to practice law before the United States Supreme Court, the United States Court of Claims, and all federal and state courts in the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Judge Fernandez devoted decades to serving the citizens of the state of Louisiana, beginning his public service as the representative of District 104 in the Louisiana House of Representatives where he served from 1972 through 1987, serving as a member of the House committees on civil law and procedure, retirement, labor and industrial relations, and natural resources for which he served as chair; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fernandez said that as a legislator he was most proud of helping to rewrite the community property laws so that wives had equal management rights of community property; he also helped develop the current joint custody rights of children; and as chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, he was the author of legislation creating the Department of Environmental Quality; and

WHEREAS, upon his departure from the legislature, Mr. Fernandez was appointed by Governor Buddy Roemer to serve on his "kitchen cabinet", a three-person super cabinet that would serve as liaison between the governor's office, the departmental secretaries, and the legislature and would enable the departmental secretaries to focus on running their departments rather than becoming embroiled in the political lobbying on behalf of the administration, with Mr. Fernandez serving in this capacity for two years and being responsible for the departments of Social Services, Health and Hospitals, Wildlife and Fisheries, Natural Resources, and Environmental Quality; and

WHEREAS, in May 2001, Mr. Fernandez was elected judge to fill a partial term on the Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Court, Division B to which he was re-elected and where he served until his retirement in the summer of 2013; and

WHEREAS, while serving on the Thirty-Fourth Judicial District bench, Judge Fernandez was a guest lecturer and presenter on many legal subjects, served as the Louisiana editor on environmental texts, co-authored an article on the rights of the terminally ill that was published in medical journals, and he served as chief judge and was the founder of the drug court in the Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Court; and

WHEREAS, Judge Fernandez was stepson of the late Scott Molero; the husband of Dorothy Harrington Fernandez; the father of Gina Fernandez, Jill Willie, and Amy Ybarzabal and stepfather of Casey Hutchens; and grandfather (Pop Pop) to Nick, Eric, Daniel, Ben, and Madeline Priola; Foster, Simon, and Samuel Willie; Adam, Gabrielle, Kyle, and Camille Ybarzabel; and Emily Hutchens; and

WHEREAS, Judge Fernandez was proudly recognized as "Man of the Year" and "Legislator of the Year" in St. Bernard Parish; and

WHEREAS, Judge Fernandez will be forever remembered as a loving and loyal husband, father, grandfather, and a friend to many, who loved his community and treasured his family; and

WHEREAS, the death of Judge Fernandez has left a great void and created a genuine sense of sorrow in all who knew him, including the members of the legislative family, all of whom mourn the loss of this wonderful man who served his state and this institution with distinction, integrity, and statesmanship.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of former state representative Judge Manuel "Manny" Fernandez and does hereby record for posterity the enduring appreciation of the citizens of Louisiana for his outstanding contributions and achievements, particularly during his tenure as a distinguished member of the Louisiana House of Representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Judge Fernandez.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE