

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10

BY SENATORS ALARIO, BOUDREAUX, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BROWN, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE AND REPRESENTATIVES BARRAS, ABRAHAM, ABRAMSON, AMEDEE, ANDERS, ARMES, BACALA, BAGLEY, BAGNERIS, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, BISHOP, BOUIE, BROADWATER, CHAD BROWN, TERRY BROWN, CARMODY, CARPENTER, GARY CARTER, ROBBY CARTER, STEVE CARTER, CHANEY, CONNICK, COUSSAN, COX, CROMER, DANAHAY, DAVIS, DEVILLIER, DWIGHT, EDMONDS, EMERSON, FALCONER, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, GLOVER, GUINN, HALL, JIMMY HARRIS, LANCE HARRIS, HAVARD, HAZEL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILFERTY, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HORTON, HOWARD, HUNTER, HUVAL, IVEY, JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, JOHNSON, JONES, JORDAN, NANCY LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LYONS, MACK, MAGEE, MARCELLE, MARINO, MCFARLAND, MIGUEZ, DUSTIN MILLER, GREGORY MILLER, MORENO, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, NORTON, PEARSON, PIERRE, POPE, PRICE, PUGH, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHRODER, SEABAUGH, SHADOIN, SIMON, SMITH, STOKES, TALBOT, THIBAUT, THOMAS, WHITE AND ZERINGUE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of the Honorable Armand J. Brinkhaus Sr., renowned public servant, beloved gentleman, and a former member of both the Louisiana House of Representatives and the Louisiana Senate, and to celebrate his devotion to the law and the welfare of people of the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it was with deep remorse that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing of Armand J. Brinkhaus Sr., on February 12, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Armand Joseph Brinkhaus was born on November 7, 1935, to parents, Dr. Armand L. Brinkhaus and Julia Thoms Brinkhaus; and

WHEREAS, he attended Sunset High School, Southwestern Louisiana Institute (now known as the University of Louisiana, Lafayette), and Loyola Law School where he received a Juris Doctor degree; and

WHEREAS, as a new law clerk, he served under the tutelage of Judge Al Tate and Judge Cleveland Fruge at the Third Circuit Court of Appeal, and later practiced law with Judge Kaliste Saloom in Lafayette before he established the partnership of Olivier and

Brinkhaus law firm in his home town; and

WHEREAS, Armand Brinkhaus was a gentleman who valued and inspired loyalty; his ability to motivate others was legendary; he could bring together differing factions across issues, across the aisles of the legislature, and include longtime politicians, legislative neophytes, and lobbyists in the confection of a compromise; and

WHEREAS, Brinkhaus was a negotiator without par; his intelligence and depth of compassion made him an invaluable asset or a formidable opponent; and

WHEREAS, Armand Brinkhaus was a dynamic personality, a leader who was both animated and engaging with strong ties to the Democratic Party, who was keenly attuned to the needs of his constituents, who served with distinction for a total of twenty-eight years in the Legislature of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, for nearly three decades he served under the administrations of governors John McKeithen, Edwin Edwards, David Treen, and Buddy Roemer; and

WHEREAS, he was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1968 and served there until 1976, representing St. Landry Parish; and he garnered assignments on the house committees on Appropriations, House and Governmental Affairs, and the House Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, while in the House, Brinkhaus was eyewitness to the adoption of the new Louisiana Constitution in 1974, a dynamic evolution of the state's legal system; and

WHEREAS, in the 1975 election cycle, Brinkhaus was elected to the Louisiana Senate and served from 1976 until 1996 representing the constituency of District 26 that was composed of the parishes of Acadia, Avoyelles, Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, and St. Landry; and

WHEREAS, he was proud of the accomplishments that punctuated his service in the Senate as chairman of the committees on Education and Senate and Governmental Affairs, and as a member of Judiciary C and Finance committees; and

WHEREAS, his effectiveness in the Senate was centered on his vast knowledge of legislative procedures; he knew the Senate Rules and how those regulations affected the advancement of legislation; and

WHEREAS, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, he authored

legislation to establish special protections for teachers in the classroom, low interest loans for school bus drivers, pay increases for teachers, support personnel, and retired educators, and teacher evaluation plans that were to be administered by local school boards; and

WHEREAS, he was a compassionate and caring champion of public education for all, from pre-kindergarten through postsecondary education, for the physically handicapped and mentally challenged, for expanded curricula for the gifted and talented, for affordable tuition fees at universities and community colleges, for readily available student loans, and ample local funding for schools; and

WHEREAS, he was instrumental in the establishment of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL), to aid in the preservation of French dialects in South Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, he received numerous awards and accolades throughout his career, too numerous to mention, however, for his advancement of CODOFIL, he was especially proud to receive the L'Association Internationale des Parlamentaries de Langue Francaise L'Ordre de la Pleiade, an award that recognizes individuals who promote French language and culture; and

WHEREAS, Armand Brinkhaus was an effective leader and legislator with a clear understanding of many issues and paramount among them was state-supported quality education for all students; he worked all of his public life to improve the state of Louisiana and the quality of life for its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Armand Brinkhaus touched so many lives in ways that will never be fully known except by the recipients of his kindness; he was always fair and loyal, and he always tried to do what was right, even if it was not the popular thing to do; and

WHEREAS, he was a loving husband to his wife of fifty-five years, Margaret Bellemin Brinkhaus, a devoted father to his children, Michelle Prudhomme, Celeste Hebert, Julia Landry, Armand Jr., Andre, Renee, and Marguerite; and cherished grandfather to thirteen grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, in death, Armand Brinkhaus leaves a tremendous void in his community and state, however, he also leaves a rich and unique legacy in the annals of Louisiana's political history, and he shall remain as a fond remembrance in the hearts of all who knew

him; and

WHEREAS, Armand Brinkhaus was a true statesman and the likes of him may not pass this way again.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its sincere condolences upon the death of former legislator, the Honorable Armand J. Brinkhaus Sr. and does hereby acknowledge the unique role he played in the development of the institutions of the state legislature that he loved and the extraordinary examples of leadership and humanity that he set throughout his life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that his was a life well-spent in the service to his community, his state, his country, and his God.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his wife, Margaret B. Brinkhaus.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES