

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 113

BY SENATOR CARTER

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences upon the death of William J. "Billy" Sanchez.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens of Louisiana have learned of the death of William J. "Billy" Sanchez; and

WHEREAS, William Sanchez was born on August 1, 1943, in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he graduated from the public school system; and

WHEREAS, after serving in the United States Air Force for four years as a Crash Rescue Fire Fighter, Billy applied for employment with the New Orleans Fire Department and was accepted on December 13, 1966, and, while serving with the department, he enrolled and received the necessary credits for an associate science degree in fire technology from Delgado Community College; and

WHEREAS, Billy was married to the former Norma Mitchell and had two children, Joseph Junis and William Jared; and

WHEREAS, he joined the New Orleans Fire Fighters' Association Local 632 when he first joined the fire department and he first began serving the labor movement in Louisiana in 1974 when he was named to the New Orleans Fire Fighters Local 632 Negotiating Committee; and

WHEREAS, Billy moved from there to the elected office of vice president of the Fire Fighters Union in 1976 and he served in that capacity until his election to president of the New Orleans Fire Fighters Association Local 632 in 1983; and

WHEREAS, as president of the New Orleans Fire Fighters Association, president of the Professional Fire Fighters Association of Louisiana, and the International Association of Fire Fighters state representative for Louisiana, he regularly negotiated collective bargaining agreements, handled grievances, wrote various constitutions and bylaws, organized new local unions, lobbied legislators at the Louisiana State Capitol as well as the United States Congress in Washington, D.C. where he helped write laws as well as serving

as an instrumental part of their passage; and

WHEREAS, Billy had a long history with the New Orleans Fire Fighters Pension and Relief Fund; he was first appointed to the fund's board of directors in 1975 to fill an unexpired term and, in January 1976, he was elected to a full two-year term, and though Billy was a newcomer to the board, he was elected to serve as its president, a function he served for six years; and

WHEREAS, Billy also served on the Louisiana Fire Fighters Supplemental Pay Board as its chairman, Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Advisory Council, Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Round Table on Arson, Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Commission on Fire Safety, Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Advisory Council on Fire Sprinklers, Louisiana State University Fire Training College Advisory Council, Louisiana State University Fire Training College Round Table on Fire Service Standards, Louisiana State Department of Labor Worker's Compensation Advisory Commission, Louisiana State Emergency Response Commission, Louisiana State Advisory Council for Employment Security, Louisiana State Trade, Industry and Tourism Commission, Louisiana State Economical Development Advisory Commission, Louisiana State Maritime Development Authority, and the Louisiana State Very Special Arts Council; and

WHEREAS, as a community activist and civic leader, he served on the Louisiana Council for Fiscal Reform, Public Affairs Research Council, Louisiana Coalition for Tax Justice, Louisiana Coalition of Voter Registration Reform, Louisiana Democratic Party, W.Y.E.S. Educational TV Advisory Council, Association of Louisiana Lobbyists as its president, Rules Committee and Professional Ethics Committee; and

WHEREAS, Billy had a colorful history as a labor leader as a registered lobbyist for the Louisiana AFL-CIO, a member of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, a member of the Southern Federation of Professional Firefighters, a member of the International Association of Fire Fighters serving as an elected member of the I.A.F.F. Committee on Human Relations, Constitution and By-Laws Committee, Policy Committee, Resolutions Committee and, as a New Orleans Fire Fighters' Association Local 632 member, Billy was chief negotiator, vice president and president, and as a member of the Professional Firefighters of Louisiana, Billy was elected as vice president and then president; and

WHEREAS, he was extremely active in the Louisiana AFL-CIO as a vice president, executive board member, Public Employees Commission chairman and Louisiana AFL-CIO COPE member and he served the Greater New Orleans AFL-CIO Central Body as an Executive Board Member and Coalition of Fire Fighters' Chairman; and

WHEREAS, William J. "Billy" Sanchez had an extensive career in assisting, directing, and creating better lives and benefits for fire fighters and working men and women, was a tough fighter who never backed down, and will always be remembered and surely be missed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere condolences to the family and friends of William J. "Billy" Sanchez; does hereby record for posterity his exemplary life of public service; and does hereby extend best hopes and prayers for peace and comfort to all who mourn his passing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of William J. "Billy" Sanchez.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE