SLS 18RS-745

ORIGINAL

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 33

BY SENATOR MILKOVICH

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

1	A 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

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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 evolution was presented in science class instruction; and 5 6 WHEREAS, Senator Keith's legislation did not require or allow instruction in any 7 religious doctrine; and 8 WHEREAS, Keith's legislation was subsequently overruled by the United States 9 Supreme Court in a 1987 decision in Edwards v. Aguillard with the court holding that the 10 law was specifically intended to advance a particular religious doctrine; and 11 WHEREAS, in 1983 Senator Keith was defeated for a second term for the District Thirty-nine seat by Democrat and owner of J. S. Williams Funeral Home and insurance 12 13 companies, Gregory Tarver; and 14 WHEREAS, Mr. Keith left Louisiana shortly after his term ended and moved to east 15 Texas where he published a weekly newspaper in Marshall, Texas, and he began his career as a writer of fiction and nonfiction, including his 2009 book "The Commissioner: A True 16 Story of Deceit, Dishonor, and Death", a study of Shreveport Public Safety Commissioner 17 18 George W. D'Artois who held office in the city until his death in 1977. 19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend former Louisiana state Senator Bill Keith on his support and 20 endorsement of teaching creationism in the public schools. 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Bill 22 23 Keith of Longview, Texas.

Governor David Treen, and was entitled the "Balanced Treatment for Creation-Science and

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

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