

2018 Third Extraordinary Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY SENATOR PETERSON

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Felicia Kahn.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the  
3 death of Felicia Kahn.

4 WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens of Louisiana  
5 learned of the death of Felicia Kahn, a local legend in political circles and the civil rights and  
6 women's advocacy movements, at the age of ninety-one; and

7 WHEREAS, Felicia Schornstein Kahn was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, to  
8 Richard and Sarah Schornstein on July 11, 1926; and

9 WHEREAS, she attended Isidore Newman School and graduated from Newcomb  
10 College in 1948; and

11 WHEREAS, Ms. Kahn had several professors who were interested in political action  
12 in the Democratic Party, and she joined the organization, casting her first ballot for Harry  
13 Truman; and

14 WHEREAS, in her senior year at Newcomb College, she met Martha Robinson who  
15 was on the campus looking for students to join the League of Women Voters New Orleans  
16 (LWVNO); and

17 WHEREAS, Ms. Kahn joined the group and assisted in registering women to vote  
18 and raising voter awareness; and

1           WHEREAS, soon after graduating from college in 1948, she married Charles Kahn  
2           Jr. and began working as a client visitor with the Louisiana Department of Public Welfare,  
3           but she quit working to start a family; and

4           WHEREAS, pushing her son, Chip, in a stroller, Ms. Kahn campaigned for Mayor  
5           Chep Morrison and for Ms. Robinson, then a candidate for New Orleans City Council; and

6           WHEREAS, Ms. Kahn found her passion with the LWWNO, and volunteering with  
7           the organization gave her a solid background in all the important issues of the day and  
8           introduced her to New Orleans' first wave of women political leaders, including Mathilde  
9           Dreyfous, Betty Wisdom, Margaret "Pokey" McIlhenny, Carolyn Gay "Blondie" Labouisse,  
10          Mildred Osborne, and Marion Abramson; and

11          WHEREAS, often with a toddler on her knee, she served the organization in many  
12          capacities, including president from 1966 to 1969, and became a frequent visitor of  
13          newsrooms pushing for coverage and traveling to Baton Rouge to lobby the legislature on  
14          issues such as voting, school integration, and poverty programs; and

15          WHEREAS, after leaving the LWWNO board in 1969, Ms. Kahn became active in  
16          many other organizations, including the New Orleans Coalition, the Independent Women's  
17          Organization, the National Women's Political Caucus, Common Cause, and the National  
18          Council of Jewish Women; and

19          WHEREAS, in 1972, Ms. Kahn worked with the biracial National Women's Political  
20          Caucus to encourage women to attend the Democratic Convention and won a seat on the  
21          Democratic State Central Committee backed by Mayor Landrieu and the New Orleans  
22          Coalition; and

23          WHEREAS, in 1976, she joined Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign, was a Carter  
24          appointee to the convention's Rules Committee, began to meet people from around the  
25          country who thought differently about women's roles, and was a candidate in a race for the  
26          Louisiana Legislature; and

27          WHEREAS, from 1976 to 2016, Ms. Kahn was a delegate to five Democratic  
28          National Conventions for Jimmy Carter, Gary Hart, Bill Clinton, and twice for Hillary  
29          Clinton, and once as an alternate; and

30          WHEREAS, in 2016, she was one of the oldest delegates to the historic convention

1 that elected Hillary Rodham Clinton to serve as the first woman presidential candidate of a  
2 major political party; and

3 WHEREAS, at the time of her passing, Ms. Kahn was serving as an elected member  
4 of the Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee representing District "B"; and

5 WHEREAS, Felicia Kahn spent a lifetime supporting Democratic ideals and was an  
6 integral part in promoting gender equality within the party; and

7 WHEREAS, she will be missed by her loving children, Charles "Chip" Kahn,  
8 Elizabeth Kahn, and Felicia "Taffy" Kahn; and

9 WHEREAS, her words sum up her lifetime of political activism best, "Women play  
10 an important role in society. It is absolutely essential that a woman be elected president.  
11 Electing male presidents every four years is just wrong. The people in charge of our country  
12 should look like the population. You can't really have representative government without  
13 true representation of the population."; and

14 WHEREAS, Felicia Kahn was a passionate feminist, political activist, and lifelong  
15 advocate of citizen education and social justice; and

16 WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of its communities,  
17 and the overall vitality of American society depend in great measure upon people like Felicia  
18 Kahn; and

19 WHEREAS, with the death of Felicia Kahn, Louisiana has lost one of its finest  
20 daughters, a quintessential southern lady who loved her community and whose  
21 accomplishments have left an indelible mark upon her community, state, and nation.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
23 does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Felicia Kahn,  
24 records for posterity her outstanding achievements and contributions, and extends enduring  
25 appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that she will forever bring to the  
26 Democratic Party, the New Orleans community, the state of Louisiana, and the United States  
27 of America.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
29 family of Felicia Kahn.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Nancy Vicknair.

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SR 17 Original	DIGEST 2018 Third Extraordinary Session	Peterson
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