



1           WHEREAS, "Butch" Gautreaux and his partner and friend, Kenny Zimmer,  
2 co-owned ZIMGO Company, a retail, appliance, automotive, and furniture multi-location  
3 establishment, where he was a small business owner for thirty years in Morgan City; and

4           WHEREAS, he was a problem solver and negotiator without par; his intelligence and  
5 depth of compassion made him an invaluable asset or a formidable opponent; and

6           WHEREAS, he was first elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1996  
7 and served one term until 2000, representing House District 51; and

8           WHEREAS, in the 2000 election cycle, "Butch" Gautreaux Jr. was elected to the  
9 Louisiana Senate and served from 2000 until 2012, representing the constituency of Senate  
10 District 21 until he term limited out; and

11           WHEREAS, serving as a legislator for sixteen years, he was a strong voice in Baton  
12 Rouge for the less fortunate, both in his constituency and statewide, and he led the efforts  
13 for saving Louisiana's wetlands, was an avid supporter of the local fishing industry, and was  
14 passionate about the fiscal management of the state, especially its retirement systems; and

15           WHEREAS, he was very active in local, professional, and civic organizations  
16 including St. Mary Arc; AARP; Morgan City Rotary, Past Treasurer and Paul Harris Fellow;  
17 Morgan City Civitan Club, Past Vice President; and the Louisiana Retailers' Association,  
18 Board Member; and

19           WHEREAS, after Hurricane Katrina, Senator Gautreaux took on insurance  
20 companies so that those who lost their homes could be compensated fairly and could rebuild,  
21 he also cared very deeply for teachers and state employees, and always demanded they be  
22 treated with respect; and

23           WHEREAS, he was known and respected as a tireless worker for the citizens of the  
24 state he loved so dearly; a true statesman, he didn't seek personal glory he merely knew no  
25 other pathway than the one that made him a pragmatic advocate for the least among us; and

26           WHEREAS, he was honored by the Senate Democratic Caucus, and selected Whip  
27 for his final legislative term; and

28           WHEREAS, Senator "Butch" Gautreaux was proud of the accomplishments that  
29 punctuated his service in the Louisiana State Legislature, serving as the chair of the Senate  
30 Committee on Retirement; as vice-chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee; as a

1 member of the Senate committees on Health and Welfare and Transportation, Highways, and  
2 Public Works; as a member of the Senate select committees on Coastal Restoration and  
3 Flood Control, Consumer Affairs and Technology, Homeland Security, and the oversight of  
4 the Gulf Coast Claims Facility; as the Senate President's designee to the Public Retirement  
5 Systems' Actuarial Committee; and as an interim member of the Senate Committee on  
6 Revenue and Fiscal Affairs and the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay; and

7 WHEREAS, "Butch" Gautreaux Jr. was a staunch advocate for state employee and  
8 teacher retiree healthcare and retirement benefits, serving as a Senate appointee on the Office  
9 of Group Benefits Policy and Planning Board, protecting state-funded employee/teacher and  
10 retiree health and life insurance benefits, and leading the fight against defined contribution  
11 and other retirement plans in 2010 and 2011, thereby preserving state employee, teacher,  
12 school employee, and State Police defined benefit retirement plans, which still remain in  
13 effect until this day; and

14 WHEREAS, as the Senate Retirement Committee chairman, he also led the fight to  
15 enhance and protect retiree cost of living allowances (COLAs), thereby preserving the only  
16 mechanism, known as the Experience Account, needed to fund retiree permanent benefit  
17 increases or COLAs, and upon his retirement from the Louisiana Senate in 2012, Senator  
18 "Butch" Gautreaux was named a Board Member Emeritus of the Retired State Employees  
19 Association of Louisiana, in recognition of his body of work on behalf of state employees  
20 and retirees during his legislative tenure, serving with dignity in that capacity for  
21 approximately eight years until his passing in 2020; and

22 WHEREAS, he received numerous awards and accolades throughout his career,  
23 including but not limited to the 1997 Outstanding Rural Award, the 1998 Friend of the  
24 Parishes Award, the 2001 Louisiana Wildlife Federation Legislator of the Year Award, the  
25 2004 Leonard J. Chabert Leadership Award, the 2006 Tobacco Free Living Legislative  
26 Champion Award, and the 2009 State Troopers' Association Legislator of the Year Award;  
27 and

28 WHEREAS, D.A. "Butch" Gautreaux Jr. touched so many lives in ways that will  
29 never be fully known except by the recipients of his kindness; he was always fair and loyal,  
30 and always tried to do what was right, even if it was not the popular thing to do; and

1           WHEREAS, he was a loving husband to his wife of fifty-one years, Marilyn (Mire)  
2           Gautreaux, a devoted father to his children, Michael and Rhonda Gautreaux and Lee and  
3           Stephanie Gautreaux; a cherished grandfather to his seven grandchildren, Alana Andras  
4           (Justin), Andrew "Buck", Andrew "Drew", Adrien, Abigail, and Katelyn; a treasured brother  
5           to his five sisters, JoAnne Hebert (Russell), Penny Russo, Gail Fazzio (Tony), Cora Phillips  
6           (Keith), Mary Gautreaux; and beloved uncle and relative to numerous nieces and nephews  
7           whose love of family was of utmost importance in his life; and

8           WHEREAS, in death, D.A. "Butch" Gautreaux Jr. leaves a tremendous void in his  
9           community and state, however, he also leaves a rich and unique legacy in the annals of  
10          Louisiana's political history, and he shall remain as a fond remembrance in the hearts of all  
11          who knew him; and

12          WHEREAS, D.A. "Butch" Gautreaux was a true and passionate statesman and the  
13          definition of a southern gentleman and the likes of him may not pass this way again.

14          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
15          express its sincere condolences upon the death of former legislator, the Honorable D.A.  
16          "Butch" Gautreaux Jr. and does hereby acknowledge the unique role he played in the  
17          development of the institutions of the state legislature that he loved and the extraordinary  
18          examples of leadership and humanity that he set throughout his life.

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

21          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his  
22          wife, Marilyn Gautreaux.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Tammy Crain Waldrop.

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SCR 53 Original

DIGEST  
2020 Regular Session

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Expresses condolences upon the death of former legislator D.A. "Butch" Gautreaux Jr.