

2020 First Extraordinary Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY SENATORS JOHNS, ABRAHAM, HENSGENS AND REESE AND  
REPRESENTATIVES BOURRIAQUE, CARRIER, WILFORD  
CARTER, DWIGHT, FARNUM, ROMERO AND TARVER

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Jo Ann Drachenberg Beam.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Jo Ann  
Drachenberg Beam.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the Legislature of  
Louisiana learned of the passing of Jo Ann Drachenberg Beam at the age of eighty-five, on  
May 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, she was born in New Orleans and lived her early life in Port Sulphur,  
graduating from Port Sulphur High School and attending LSU and McNeese State  
University; and

WHEREAS, Jo Ann married James C. "Jim" Beam, a newly commissioned second  
lieutenant in the United States Army, on August 20, 1954, and with him, as he served a  
two-year tour of duty in Oklahoma and Georgia, they celebrated their sixty-fifth wedding  
anniversary in 2019; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1970, she served as a secretary for five years at Lake  
Charles High School, then became a twenty-year secretary in the Office of Student Services  
at McNeese State University, retiring in 1995 as an administrative secretary; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Beam was a longtime active member of St. Luke-Simpson  
Methodist Church where she kept track of church attendance and was a member of the

1 Seekers Sunday School class; she taught children's Sunday school, vacation Bible school and  
2 served on the Evangelism Committee, Families Helping Families, Contemporary Worship  
3 Committee and as leader of Bible Study Fellowship; and

4 WHEREAS, she was a volunteer with the Lake Charles Memorial Hospital Auxiliary  
5 for twenty-three years, serving for three thousand hours as a patient representative; and

6 WHEREAS, she loved games, particularly weekly card games with close friends, and  
7 was an avid New Orleans Saints fan; and

8 WHEREAS, she was preceded in death by her parents, William and Myrtle  
9 Drachenberg; sister, Mrs. Inez Lilly; and brother, Billy Drachenberg; and

10 WHEREAS, Mrs. Beam is survived by her husband; daughter, Jamie Fierro (husband  
11 Joe); son, Bryan C. Beam (wife, the former Edith Pavy); granddaughter, Jessica Meek  
12 Walker (husband, Adam); grandson, Andrew James Beam; and great-granddaughter, Aurora  
13 Walker; and

14 WHEREAS, with the death of Mrs. Beam, Louisiana has lost one of her finest  
15 citizens; she leaves behind a rich and unique legacy and will be greatly missed; and

16 WHEREAS, although the death of Jo Ann Drachenberg Beam has left a tremendous  
17 void in her community, her memory shall live forever in the minds and hearts of all who  
18 knew and loved her.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
20 express sincere condolences upon the death of Jo Ann Drachenberg Beam; does hereby  
21 recognize and record for posterity her outstanding accomplishments and singular  
22 contributions; and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the pride and honor that this  
23 wonderful woman will forever bring to her family, friends, church, community, McNeese  
24 State University, and the state of Louisiana.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to her  
26 husband, Jim Beam.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

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|  | DIGEST                           |       |
| SCR 8 Original   | 2020 First Extraordinary Session | Johns |
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