

2025 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 52

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Richard Zuschlag on the occasion of his passing.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of  
3 Louisiana to the family and friends of Richard Zuschlag on the occasion of his  
4 passing.

5 WHEREAS, Richard Zuschlag was a native of Greenville, Pennsylvania, and a 1970  
6 graduate of the Capitol Institute of Technology in Washington, DC; and

7 WHEREAS, Richard moved to Lafayette, Louisiana, while on assignment for  
8 Westinghouse and co-founded Acadian Companies in 1971 with two friends, pioneering the  
9 field of pre-hospital emergency medical care; and

10 WHEREAS, under Richard's leadership, Acadian Companies has grown into a  
11 national leader in emergency medical transportation, providing essential services and saving  
12 countless lives; and

13 WHEREAS, Richard Zuschlag received numerous awards throughout his  
14 distinguished career, including the J. Walter Schaefer Award from the American Ambulance  
15 Association, the James O. Page/JEMS Leadership Award, the Pinnacle EMS Lifetime  
16 Achievement Award, and the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year in Healthcare and  
17 Healthcare Services; and

18 WHEREAS, he was named by Inc. Magazine as Entrepreneur of the Year for his

1 efforts in coordinating Hurricane Katrina rescue efforts and has been inducted into the  
2 Louisiana Political Hall of Fame and named a "Louisiana Legend" by Louisiana Public  
3 Broadcasting; and

4 WHEREAS, Richard served as Chairman of the Lafayette Parish Communication  
5 District, and was involved in numerous organizations including the Louisiana Emergency  
6 Preparedness Association, the Governor's Patient Compensation Fund, One Acadiana, the  
7 Baton Rouge Area Chamber, Louisiana Association of Broadcasters, Louisiana Association  
8 of Business and Industry, and the Acadiana Safety Association; and

9 WHEREAS, he dedicated his time and talent to many civic organizations, serving  
10 on the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors, the LSU Tiger Athletic Foundation,  
11 the UL Lafayette Foundation, and as President of 232-HELP; and

12 WHEREAS, Richard was passionately involved in fundraising activities for  
13 numerous civic and charitable causes, benefitting organizations such as Acadiana's United  
14 Way, St. Thomas More High School, and Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Acadiana; and

15 WHEREAS, a devout catholic with a deep desire to help all of the people of his  
16 adopted home, Zuschlag was instrumental in assembling and chairing an ad hoc committee  
17 that led to the renovation and expansion of the last historically black catholic elementary  
18 school in the Acadiana area; and

19 WHEREAS, he received numerous accolades for his philanthropy and civic  
20 engagement, including the Lafayette Civic Cup, the Distinguished Citizen Award from the  
21 Boy Scouts, the Golden Mike Award from the Louisiana Association of Broadcasters, and  
22 the U.S. Senate Innovation Award on behalf of Acadian Ambulance Service; and

23 WHEREAS, Richard Zuschlag was an admired agent of change whose vision,  
24 generosity, and leadership impacted countless lives in Louisiana and across the nation; and

25 WHEREAS, he had a way of bringing out the best in everyone around him; he was  
26 the ultimate host with an uncanny ability to create the most precious, memorable moments  
27 in the course of otherwise regular activities; and

28 WHEREAS, his legacy endures through his family, in every life saved, every patient  
29 helped, and the continued success of Acadian Companies, exemplifying servant leadership,  
30 integrity, and determination; and

1           WHEREAS, Richard Zuschlag is survived by his beloved wife of forty-seven years,  
2 Elaine Dupuis Zuschlag to whom he credits all of his successes; his three cherished children:  
3 Beth Zuschlag LeBlanc, Blair Zuschlag, and Blaise Zuschlag; his nine adored grandchildren;  
4 his golden retriever Sandy; his siblings Charlotte Zuschlag, John Zuschlag, and Tom  
5 Zuschlag; and, his extended family and Acadian family.

6           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
7 does hereby extend sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Richard  
8 Zuschlag on the occasion of his passing and his extraordinary life, accomplishments, and  
9 contributions to the state of Louisiana and beyond are hereby recognized and honored.

10           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
11 Elaine Dupuis Zuschlag.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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SR 52 Original	DIGEST 2025 Regular Session	Boudreaux
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Expresses condolences upon the passing of Richard Zuschlag.