

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 52

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, he was named by Inc. Magazine as Entrepreneur of the Year for his efforts in coordinating Hurricane Katrina rescue efforts and has been inducted into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame and named a "Louisiana Legend" by Louisiana Public Broadcasting; and

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

WHEREAS, he dedicated his time and talent to many civic organizations, serving

on the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors, the LSU Tiger Athletic Foundation, the UL Lafayette Foundation, and as President of 232-HELP; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE