

2025 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 42

BY SENATOR BARROW

CONDOLENCES. Expresses sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Melvin Lee "Kip" Holden on the occasion of his passing.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the
3 death of former state legislator and mayor-president of East Baton Rouge Parish
4 Melvin Lee "Kip" Holden and to posthumously commend him for a lifetime of
5 significant achievements.

6 WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the Senate and
7 House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing, on May
8 14, 2025, of former state legislator and mayor-president of East Baton Rouge Parish, Melvin
9 Lee "Kip" Holden; and

10 WHEREAS, Kip Holden was born on August 12, 1952, to Rosa May Rogers and
11 Curtis Holden in New Orleans, Louisiana; he graduated from Scotlandville Senior High
12 School in Baton Rouge in 1970 and earned a bachelor of arts degree in journalism from the
13 Louisiana State University Manship School of Mass Communication in 1974; and

14 WHEREAS, after completing his undergraduate studies, Kip pursued a career in
15 radio broadcasting and was hired as a news director for WXOK Radio in Baton Rouge; he
16 later relocated to New Orleans and served as a reporter for WWL Radio, and in 1978, he
17 became a reporter for WBRZ Channel 2; and

18 WHEREAS, Kip attended graduate school at Southern University and earned a

1 master of arts degree in journalism in 1982; he also began accepting roles within the public
2 sector, working as a public relations specialist for the United States Census Bureau, a public
3 information officer for the Baton Rouge City Police Department, and a law clerk for the
4 Louisiana Department of Labor Office of Workers' Compensation; and

5 WHEREAS, Kip entered politics in 1984, when he was elected as the councilman
6 representing District 2 on the Baton Rouge Metro Council; he received a juris doctorate from
7 the Southern University Law Center in 1985, and was elected to represent District No. 63
8 as a distinguished member of the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1988 and served
9 until 2002; he was then elected as the Louisiana State Senator for District No. 15 and served
10 from 2002 to 2004; and

11 WHEREAS, Kip was elected to serve as mayor-president of East Baton Rouge Parish
12 in 2004 as the first African American mayor-president in parish history; as mayor, he
13 enacted policies that included the Green Light Baton Rouge Citizens Council and aided the
14 revitalization of downtown Baton Rouge; he also established an HIV/AIDS task force
15 devoted to an education, prevention, and awareness campaign concerning the disease, and
16 he launched economic development initiatives aimed at promoting minority-owned
17 businesses; and

18 WHEREAS, following the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Mayor
19 Holden led efforts to provide refuge for many New Orleans evacuees; he made a rare
20 personal address to the U.S. Senate seeking additional federal funding to help address the
21 destruction throughout the region; he won re-election in 2008 and 2012 and left office in
22 2016; and

23 WHEREAS, Melvin Lee "Kip" Holden is survived by his wife, Lois, and his five
24 children; he was a true trailblazer who inspired a new generation of public servants in
25 Louisiana, and he will be forever remembered for his "joie de vivre" and passion for serving
26 his community.

27 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
28 express sincere and heartfelt condolences on the death of former state legislator and mayor-
29 president of East Baton Rouge Parish Melvin Lee "Kip" Holden; does hereby posthumously
30 commend him for a lifetime of significant achievements; and does hereby extend enduring

