

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 62

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Robert "Bob"

Winfred Merrick and to honor his life, legacy, and contributions to Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that the members of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the passing of Robert "Bob" Winfred Merrick on April 28, 2025, at the age of eighty; and

WHEREAS, Robert Merrick was born in August 1944 in New Orleans; he attended Sam Barthe Elementary School, St. Martin's Episcopal High School, and Tulane University, and in each of these stages of life he formed lasting friendships; and

WHEREAS, Bob was a beloved civic leader, keen fly fisherman, husband, father, stepfather, grandfather, and great-grandfather; he embodied the culture and grit of his New Orleans hometown with his zest for life and unwavering commitment to Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, pursuing his commitment to making New Orleans a better place, Bob dedicated countless hours and significant resources to philanthropic endeavors, including generous donations to the Red Cross, University of New Orleans, Ochsner Health System, MD Anderson Cancer Center, the Boy Scouts of Southeast Louisiana, Son of a Saint, Ruth Fertel Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, Fore Kids Foundation, Junior Achievement of Greater New Orleans, United Way of Southeast Louisiana, the National WWII Museum, March of Dimes, Isidore Newman School, and St. Martin's Episcopal School; and

WHEREAS, Robert Merrick was the first person in the Louisiana to give over \$1 million to both United Way of Southeast Louisiana and the Red Cross; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his lifetime of generosity, Bob was honored with The National Red Cross Humanitarian of the Year Award, The University of New Orleans Chancellor's Medallion for Distinguished Service, The New Orleans Council for Community & Justice's Weiss Award, Mobil Oil Company's "Strategic Partner of the Year," Gambit's

New Orleanian of the Year, The Alexis de Tocqueville Lifetime Achievement Award from United Way, and the prestigious Times-Picayune Loving Cup; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, Bob purchased Latter & Blum, Inc./Realtors, one of the largest and oldest full service real estate companies in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in October 1988, Bob served as a member of the Real Estate Appraisal Subcommittee of the Louisiana Real Estate Commission; and

WHEREAS, Bob acquired numerous real estate brokerage firms including C.J. Brown Realtors in Baton Rouge, Noles Frye Realty in Alexandria, Van Eaton & Romeo in Lafayette, and Realty Associates in Houston, Texas; Bob grew Latter and Blum into one of the largest and most successful full service real estate firms in the Gulf South before selling it to Compass Real Estate; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Bob formed countless friendships with the employees and agents of what he called his "other family", the Latter and Blum/Compass group; and

WHEREAS, Bob had a unique sense of humor and an uncanny ability to connect with people from all walks of life; he enriched the world around him with love, laughter, and generosity; and

WHEREAS, an avid lover of the outdoors, Bob found immense joy in stalking wild turkeys, fly fishing in the saltwater flats of Mexico, and appreciating the beauty of nature; and

WHEREAS, Bob Merrick leaves behind a legacy of philanthropy and leadership and a profound impact on the hearts of those who knew him; and

WHEREAS, left to cherish the memory of Bob Merrick are his wife, Sheryl; sisters, Patricia Merrick Brinson and Susan Merrick; daughters, Elizabeth Merrick, Christine Merrick Stewart, Amanda Merrick Seale, and Lacey Merrick Conway; stepson, Justin Duplantis; grandchildren, Taylor Ghare Smith, Laney Ghare Marion, Lillian Andersson, Merrick Andersson, Henry Andersson, Tatem Seale, Alexander Seale, Merrick Seale, Olivia Conway, and Hunter Conway; and stepgrandchildren, Braden Wheat, Timothé Duplantis, and Chloe Duplantis; he will be deeply missed, but the legacy of his love shall live on in perpetuity in the hearts and minds of those who were privileged to have known him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Robert "Bob" Winfred Merrick and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that his family, friends, and loved ones find comfort in their shared memories of his beautiful life.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE