

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 56

BY SENATOR HENRY AND REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of Robert Winfred Merrick and to honor his life, legacy, and numerous contributions to Louisiana.

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

WHEREAS, Merrick was born in August of 1944, in New Orleans, Louisiana, and became a beloved civic leader, philanthropist, keen fly fisherman, husband, father, stepfather, grandfather, and great-grandfather; and

WHEREAS, Merrick was known for embodying the culture and grit of his hometown and for his zest for life and unwavering commitment to Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Merrick attended Sam Barthe Elementary School, St. Martin's Episcopal High School, and Tulane University, where he formed lasting friendships creating a foundation for his illustrious career; and

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

WHEREAS, Merrick was honored to be the first person in the state of Louisiana to give over one million dollars to both the United Way of Southeast Louisiana and the American Red Cross; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his lifetime of generosity, Merrick has been honored with The National Red Cross Humanitarian of the Year Award, The University of New

Orleans Chancellors Medallion for Distinguished Service, The New Orleans Council for Community & Justice's Weiss Award, Mobil Oil Company "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, Merrick purchased Latter & Blum, Inc./Realtors one of the largest and oldest, full-service real estate companies in Louisiana; and was appointed in October of 1988 to serve as a member of the Real Estate Appraisal Subcommittee of the Louisiana Real Estate Commission; and

WHEREAS, Merrick later acquired numerous real estate brokerage firms, including C.J. Brown Realtors in Baton Rouge (1995), Noles Frye Realty in Alexandria (2009), Van Eaton & Romeo in Lafayette (2012), and Realty Associates in Houston, Texas (2015), growing 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, Merrick formed countless friendships with the employees and agents of his "other family" - the Latter and Blum/Compass group; and

WHEREAS, possessing a wicked sense of humor, Merrick had an uncanny ability to connect with people from all walks of life, enriching the world around him with love, laughter and generosity; and

WHEREAS, he was an avid lover of the outdoors, finding immense joy in stalking wild turkey, fly fishing the saltwater flats of Mexico, and appreciating the beauty of nature; and

WHEREAS, Merrick leaves behind not only a legacy of philanthropy and leadership, but also a profound impact on the hearts of those who knew him; and

WHEREAS, Merrick is survived by his beloved 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 step-grandchildren, Braden Wheat, Timothé Duplantis, and Chloe Duplantis - all of whom he loved dearly; and

WHEREAS, Merrick, a true son of New Orleans, left this world a much better place than he found it.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Robert "Bob" Winfred Merrick and further honors and celebrates his remarkable life and legacy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his wife, Sheryl Merrick and to his daughters, Elizabeth Merrick, Christine Merrick Stewart, Amanda Merrick Seale, and Lacey Merrick Conway.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES