

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 4

BY REPRESENTATIVE DEVILLIER

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences on the death of the Honorable Joe R. Salter, former Speaker of the House

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of the Honorable Joe R. Salter,
3 former Speaker of the House.

4 WHEREAS, it was with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the
5 Louisiana House of Representatives learned of the death of the Honorable Joe R. Salter,
6 former Speaker of the House, on Saturday, August 16, 2025, at the age of eighty-two; and

7 WHEREAS, it is fitting to express enduring gratitude for Speaker Salter's outstanding
8 contributions to this state, particularly during his term of service as a distinguished member
9 and Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives; and

10 WHEREAS, born in Many, Louisiana, Joe Salter grew up in Redland, and he and his
11 wife, Bettye, put down deep roots and raised their family in Florien, where he served as a
12 deacon and Sunday school teacher at First Baptist Church; and

13 WHEREAS, Joe Salter was a public servant whose excellence as a state
14 representative merited his consistent reelection from 1986 until 2008, when he termed out
15 of office, and during his legislative tenure, he fully used every opportunity to serve the
16 citizens of his district and the state in an honorable and dedicated manner; and

17 WHEREAS, on January 12, 2004, Joe Salter was elected as the sixty-second Speaker
18 of the House, a role in which he served with great distinction; when nominating Mr. Salter
19 for election as Speaker of the House, the late Representative Billy Wayne Montgomery
20 captured him well when saying, "He never says he's wise, but he is. He never says he's fair,
21 but he is fair. He never says he's honest, but he is honest. He never says he has skills, but

1 he does have skills. He never says he's knowledgeable, but he is knowledgeable. And above
2 all, he never says he's a leader, but he is a leader ... he never promotes himself. He just lives
3 a life that reflects these things ... members, we have a good man here"; and

4 WHEREAS, in the period following the historic storms of 2005, Speaker Salter
5 demonstrated his outstanding leadership skills when helping to guide the House of
6 Representatives and the state through the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita;
7 as Louisiana rebuilt after these storms, the House and the state benefitted tremendously from
8 the leadership of Speaker Salter, who lent strength, dignity, and determination to this
9 unprecedented recovery process; and

10 WHEREAS, after the end of his House service, Mr. Salter continued his state public
11 service as the director of governmental affairs for the state Department of Education, chief
12 of staff for the Louisiana Secretary of State, and a member of the Board of Supervisors for
13 the University of Louisiana System; he retired in January of 2024 after a highly productive
14 fifty-nine-year career spent in service to his fellow citizens; and

15 WHEREAS, Speaker Salter's blend of intelligence and sincerity was a vital asset to
16 the state of Louisiana, and all who worked with him over the course of his long career in
17 public service appreciated his graciousness, integrity, and quiet wisdom and knew him as
18 a trustworthy man of faith; and

19 WHEREAS, above all, Joe Salter was a family man who loved spending time with
20 his wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; he is survived by Bettye Lilly
21 Salter, his childhood sweetheart and wife of sixty years; their children and children's
22 spouses, Mandy and Billy Gibbs and Brantley and Tammy Salter; grandchildren, Hannah
23 Gibbs Fontenot and her husband Gage, Haylee Salter, Tyler Gibbs, and Riley Salter; and
24 great-grandchildren, Kendall Fontenot and Axel Fontenot; he will be missed profoundly by
25 his beloved family and the many other individuals whose lives he touched with his strength
26 of character and generosity of spirit; and

27 WHEREAS, with the death of Joe Salter, the state has lost one of her finest sons, a
28 man who will be remembered by all who were lucky enough to know him, including the
29 members of the House family, all of whom mourn the loss of this wonderful man who served
30 this institution and this state so long and so well.

1 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
2 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the
3 death of the Honorable Joe R. Salter, former Speaker of the House; does hereby recognize
4 and record for posterity his notable accomplishments and singular contributions during more
5 than two decades as a distinguished member of the Louisiana House of Representatives and
6 as the sixty-second Speaker of the House; and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for
7 the pride and honor that he will forever bring to his family and friends, to the Florien
8 community, to Sabine Parish, to the House, and to the state of Louisiana.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]

HR 4 Original

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DeVillier

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