

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 4

BY REPRESENTATIVES DEVILLIER, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BACALA, BAGLEY, BAMBURG, BAYHAM, BEAULLIEU, BERAULT, BILLINGS, BOUDREAUX, BOURRIAQUE, BOYD, BOYER, BRASS, BRAUD, BROUSSARD, BRYANT, BUTLER, CARLSON, CARPENTER, CARRIER, ROBBY CARTER, WILFORD CARTER, CARVER, CHASSION, CHENEVERT, COATES, COX, CREWS, DESHOTEL, DEWITT, DICKERSON, DOMANGUE, ECHOLS, EDMONSTON, EGAN, FARNUM, FIRMENT, FISHER, FONTENOT, FREEMAN, FREIBERG, GADBERRY, GALLE, GEYMAN, GLORIOSO, GREEN, HEBERT, HENRY, HILFERTY, HORTON, ILLG, JACKSON, MIKE JOHNSON, TRAVIS JOHNSON, JORDAN, KERNER, KNOX, LACOMBE, LAFLEUR, JACOB LANDRY, MANDIE LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MACK, MARCELLE, MARTINEZ, MCCORMICK, MCFARLAND, MCMAHEN, MCMAKIN, MELERINE, MENA, MILLER, MOORE, MURRAY, MUSCARELLO, NEWELL, ORGERON, OWEN, PHELPS, RISER, SCHAMERHORN, SCHLEGEL, SPELL, ST. BLANC, STAGNI, TARVER, TAYLOR, THOMAS, THOMPSON, TURNER, VENTRELLA, VILLIO, WALTERS, WILDER, WILEY, WRIGHT, WYBLE, YOUNG, AND ZERINGUE

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2004, Joe Salter was elected as the sixty-second Speaker of the House, a role in which he served with great distinction; when nominating Mr. Salter for election as Speaker of the House, the late Representative Billy Wayne Montgomery captured him well when saying, "He never says he's wise, but he is. He never says he's fair, but he is fair. He never says he's honest, but he is honest. He never says he has skills, but he does have skills. He never says he's knowledgeable, but he is knowledgeable. And above all, he never says he's a leader, but he is a leader ... he never promotes himself. He just lives a life that reflects these things ... members, we have a good man here"; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES