

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY SENATORS MORRIS, ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BARROW, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CONNICK, EDMONDS, FESI, HARRIS, HENRY, HENSGENS, HODGES, JACKSON-ANDREWS, JENKINS, KLEINPETER, LAMBERT, MCMATH, MILLER, MYERS, OWEN, PRESSLY, PRICE, SELDERS, WHEAT AND WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of the Honorable Robert W. "Bob" Kostelka, former district attorney, judge, and Louisiana state senator, and to commend his legacy of many years of dedicated public service.

WHEREAS, the Honorable Robert W. "Bob" Kostelka passed away peacefully on the morning of January 10, 2026, aged ninety-two, surrounded by love and leaving behind the legacy of a life well-lived; and

WHEREAS, Bob was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, a respected jurist and public servant, and a man whose strength, integrity, and warmth left a lasting mark on all who knew him; and

WHEREAS, he was a gentleman of abundant grace and civic acumen who was guided throughout his life by a deep sense of duty, fairness, and commitment to doing what was right; and

WHEREAS, Bob was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, attended Centenary College, matriculated to Louisiana State University, and earned his Juris Doctor degree from the Louisiana State University School of Law in 1957; and

WHEREAS, he dedicated much of his life to public service, as the district attorney and district court judge for the 4th Judicial District Court for Ouachita and Morehouse parishes, as a judge on the Louisiana 2nd Circuit Court of Appeal from 1998 to 2003, and ultimately as a Louisiana state senator from 2003 to 2016, possessing perhaps the most comprehensive legal background of any legislator; and

WHEREAS, utilizing his expertise and interests, Senator Kostelka garnered assignments to the Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs as chairman, the Committee on Judiciary C as chairman, the Committee on Judiciary A as vice chairman, and seats on the committees on Labor and Industrial Relations, Revenue and Fiscal Affairs, Transportation, Highways and Public Works, and Retirement, as well as the Select Committee on Vocational and Technical Education; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his keen interest in governmental affairs and criminal procedure, he authored legislation that addressed child support, consumer protection, health care, election reform, education, courts and judicial funding, taxation, and governmental ethics for public officials and employees; and

WHEREAS, his integrity, legal wisdom, and principled leadership earned Bob a nomination by President George H. W. Bush to the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana in 1992, reflecting the deep respect he commanded throughout his career; and

WHEREAS, he was inducted into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame in 2022, honored for his life and career of service by his peers; and

WHEREAS, Bob was affiliated with numerous professional associations, including Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity, the American Bar Association, the Association of Appellate Judges, the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Fourth District Bar Association, and the Louisiana State Law Institute; and

WHEREAS, beyond his professional accomplishments, he was, above all else, a family man who remained steadfastly the "man of the house," a protector and provider whose presence brought a sense of security, steadiness, and love; and

WHEREAS, at home in Monroe, numerous civic and philanthropic organizations benefitted from Bob's active participation, including the Salvation Army as a three-time chairman, for which he received the Citizen of the Year Award; Rotary International, District 6190, as board member and treasurer; the Boy Scouts of America as scout master and district chairman; the YMCA; and the Arthritis Foundation and Muscular Dystrophy Association, acting as past campaign chairman for both nonprofits; and

WHEREAS, as a faithful member of the First Presbyterian Church of Monroe, he

served as a witness to the power of God's grace, as an elder of the church, and as a Sunday school teacher; and

WHEREAS, Bob found deep joy in travel, especially journeys out West, where the mountains and open skies of Montana held a special place in his heart and reflected his own spirit of grounded and enduring strength; and

WHEREAS, he was a warm and devoted husband and father, who led by example and instilled values of integrity, hard work, and faithfulness in his family; and

WHEREAS, Bob was married to the former Felicia Marie Danna, his helpmate in all things, who accompanied him to the Louisiana State Capitol during legislative sessions and served as his guiding light, as he served as her rock; inseparable sweethearts always; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his beloved wife, Felicia; his children: Kathryn Lemoine, William "Bill" Kostelka (Donna), Carol Gros (Terry), and Claire Texada (Chase); his grandchildren: Evan Kostelka (Caroline), Katie Collandreau (Pierre), and Collins Marie Texada; his great-grandchildren: Cooper, Molly, Carter, Eleanore, and Madeleine; and many extended family members and friends who will miss him deeply and remember him always; and was preceded in death by his first wife, Bobbie, son, Cliff, sister, Billie, and countless friends and associates; and

WHEREAS, Bob leaves behind a remarkable legacy, not only in the justice he upheld and the service he gave, but in the lives he touched at home and beyond, and his family and friends will forever cherish his wisdom, steady guidance, stories, and the love that anchored them through generations; and

WHEREAS, his family can take comfort in knowing that he lived a full and honorable life, that he now rests in peace, reunited with those who went before him, and that his legacy will continue to live on through the family he loved, the values he passed down, and the countless lives he influenced through his service and example.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the Honorable Robert W. "Bob" Kostelka, husband, father, jurist, statesman, community leader, and generous volunteer, who set an extraordinary standard of graciousness and good citizenship for all to emulate.

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ENROLLED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of the Honorable Robert W. "Bob" Kostelka.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE