

2026 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY SENATOR MIZELL

CONDOLENCES. Expresses sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the passing of John Norman Gallaspy.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of John
3 Norman Gallaspy.

4 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that the passing of John Norman Gallaspy
5 on March 21, 2026, at the age of ninety-three has been learned; and

6 WHEREAS, John was born on November 8, 1932, to the union of Francis Norman
7 Gallaspy and Hazel Weeks Gallaspy, and later, after his mother passed away when he was
8 three, his father married Mary Leigh Marshall Gallaspy and his two sisters, Kathleen and
9 Virginia, were born of that union; and

10 WHEREAS, at a young age, the family farm provided John with the opportunity to
11 pursue his passion for growing watermelons and in 1943, at the age of ten, John planted his
12 first watermelon patch; and

13 WHEREAS, at the age of fifteen, John graduated from Pelican High School and
14 enrolled at LSU as one of the youngest students on campus, majoring in history with a minor
15 in English; he participated in Sigma Chi fraternity and the Corps of Cadets and served as
16 company commander his senior year; and

17 WHEREAS, upon graduation, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the
18 United States Army Field Artillery and was deployed to Korea in the fall of 1952, serving

1 as forward observer, in effect he was the eyes and ears of the commander, for the 39th Field
2 Artillery Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment of the Third Infantry Division; and

3 WHEREAS, John participated in the Battle of Outpost Harry, one of the last major
4 engagements of the Korean War, and for his service and unrelenting fire support which
5 saved countless lives and played a significant role in the U.S. and Greek forces retaining
6 control of this critical outpost, John was awarded the Bronze Star for his acts of valor in
7 combat; and

8 WHEREAS, following the war, John attended LSU Law School, where he served as
9 student body president and was inducted into the school's hall of fame; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1958, John married Dixie Nell Yates, with whom he shared nearly
11 sixty years of marriage until her passing in 2016, and together they raised three sons, Whit,
12 Gardner, and Lee, in Bogalusa, Louisiana; and

13 WHEREAS, as part of his legal career, John served as chief prosecutor for
14 Washington Parish and was proud to be a small town lawyer, maintaining a civil practice
15 that included litigation, real estate, successions, and wills, and John, with his law partner and
16 staff, became a cornerstone of the legal community; and

17 WHEREAS, in 2016, after practicing law for nearly sixty years John retired from the
18 practice of law; while dedicated to the practice of law for nearly sixty years, he retired to
19 pursue other passions and became a champion watermelon grower, winning grand champion
20 awards at the state watermelon festival in Farmerville and sharing his harvest with the
21 community; and

22 WHEREAS, John was an active contributor to the Bogalusa community, receiving
23 numerous honors including Citizen of the Year and serving as Grand Marshal of the 2023
24 Washington Parish Watermelon Festival parade and the 2026 Krewe of MCCA parade where
25 it was said that he enjoyed towing the floats with his John Deere tractor, another of his
26 varied passions, even more than participating in the parades; and

27 WHEREAS, he was a devoted member of Elizabeth Sullivan Memorial United
28 Methodist Church, Mill Town Players, Rotary Club, the American Legion, and an honorary
29 member of the Forty and Eight; and

30 WHEREAS, in 2014, as part of the city of Bogalusa's one hundredth anniversary,

