

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY SENATOR MIZELL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, upon graduation, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Field Artillery and was deployed to Korea in the fall of 1952, serving as forward observer; in effect, he was the eyes and ears of the commander for the 39th Field Artillery Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment of the Third Infantry Division; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, in 2016, after practicing law for nearly sixty years, John retired from the profession, to pursue other passions and ultimately became a champion watermelon grower, winning grand champion awards at the state watermelon festival in Farmerville and sharing his harvest with the community; and

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

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

WHEREAS, in 2014, as part of the city of Bogalusa's one hundredth anniversary, John authored a three hundred-page book entitled *Bogalusa, the City that Refused to Die*, reflecting his deep love for his community; and

WHEREAS, after the passing of his wife, Dixie, John married Martha Moak, and they spent their golden years visiting friends, traveling, attending Sun Methodist Church, and enjoying time with family; and

WHEREAS, John was preceded in death by his wife, Dixie Yates Gallaspy; his parents, Francis Norman Gallaspy, Hazel Weeks Gallaspy, and Mary Leigh Gallaspy; his brother, Jerry Weeks Gallaspy; and his cousin and close friend, Mary Rives Gallaspy; and

WHEREAS, John is survived by his three sons, John Whithurst Gallaspy, Gardner Weeks Gallaspy, and Leland Redding Gallaspy; eight grandchildren; and his sisters, Kathleen Myers and Virginia Garlington; and

WHEREAS, John Norman Gallaspy lived a life of service, dedication, and quiet distinction, leaving a lasting legacy upon his family, his profession, his community, and the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its deepest condolences upon the death of John Norman Gallaspy and does hereby recognize his life of service and many contributions to the state of Louisiana and the community of Bogalusa.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of John Norman Gallaspy.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES