

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 129

BY SENATOR EDMONDS

A RESOLUTION

To express sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family and friends of Kathleen "Kathy" Sessums upon the occasion of her passing.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow and deep regret that the citizens of Louisiana have learned of the passing of Kathleen "Kathy" Sessums, at the age of sixty-eight, after a long and courageous battle with cancer on April 22, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Kathy was born on August 4, 1957, and raised in Shreveport, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, at thirteen she met the love of her life, John Thomas Sessums, whom she married in 1974, and soon after they welcomed twin boys beginning a life centered on love, family, and unwavering devotion; and

WHEREAS, during Kathy's forty-six year tenure in public service in a clerical position, her supervisors recognized her potential and encouraged her to pursue college credits required to qualify for jobs in the accounting field; and

WHEREAS, upon earning the necessary education, she became an agency accountant for the Department of Health and Human Resources, now known as the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), and quickly advanced to various managerial positions across the state, undertaking a multitude of tasks, responsibilities, and challenges; and

WHEREAS, Kathy lead a milestone project to build the state's first cost allocation system at LDH, a system critical in establishing the foundation for the modern cost allocation systems used statewide, thus enabling the state to orchestrate funding resources in a way that continues to benefit all residents; and

WHEREAS, Kathy's experience, analytical brilliance, and near-photographic memory ultimately led to her becoming the director of Louisiana's Enterprise Resource Planning system, also known as LaGov; and

WHEREAS, under her leadership, LaGov became a massive, multi-year initiative

resulting in the implementation of a statewide information system that integrates accounting, finance, budgeting, procurement, staff training, payroll, inventory control, capital projects, travel management, and grant services, those of which Kathy had a keen understanding of detail and how they all worked together; and

WHEREAS, Kathy worked tirelessly with various governmental departments to incorporate data from essential agency stand-alone systems into the LaGov system, which has replaced obsolete systems and modernized state operations and secured millions in taxpayer savings. LaGov provides a common base for all state activities, and has become key to all statewide operations today; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 she received a well deserved award, the "Charles E. Dunbar, Jr. Career Civil Service Award", which is the highest honor classified state employees can receive for their service to the citizens of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Kathy will be remembered not only for her professional accomplishments, but also for her leadership, mentorship, and the relationships she built throughout her time in public service; and

WHEREAS, Kathy was a devoted wife, mother, and Mimi and enjoyed spending time with her children, grandchildren, dogs, and close friends, and whether in Florida or on the river, weekends on the water, surrounded by loved ones, was where she was happiest; and

WHEREAS, she is survived by her beloved husband of fifty-two years, John Thomas Sessums; her twin sons and daughter-in-laws, Brady (Cinclare) Sessums, Casey (Rebecca) Sessums; and four grandchildren, Elizabeth Sessums, John Brady "JB" Sessums Jr., Marcelle Sessums, and Thomas Sessums; and

WHEREAS, Kathy shall be remembered as a visionary who helped modernize state operations through LaGov, leaving a lasting impact on Louisiana's state agencies, as the cornerstone of Louisiana's statewide operations; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen "Kathy" Sessums will be remembered for her strength, intelligence, warmth, and the deep love she had for her family, friends, and she leaves a legacy in the lives she touched, the family she cherished, and the enduring impact of her life's work for Louisiana through LaGov.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Kathleen "Kathy" Sessums on the occasion of her passing and does extend enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that her memories will forever bring to the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to her husband, Mr. John Thomas Sessums.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE