

2026 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 135

BY SENATOR KLEINPETER

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences on the passing of Kathleen "Kathy" Sessums.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the
3 death of Kathleen "Kathy" Sessums and to honor her life, legacy, and extraordinary
4 contributions to the state of Louisiana.

5 WHEREAS, it is with deep sorrow that the members of the Senate of the Legislature
6 of Louisiana learn of the passing of Kathleen "Kathy" Sessums on April 22, 2026, at the age
7 of sixty-eight, following a long and courageous battle with cancer; and

8 WHEREAS, Kathy Sessums was born on August 4, 1957, and raised in Shreveport,
9 Louisiana, where she began a life defined by dedication, resilience, and compassion; and

10 WHEREAS, at the young age of thirteen, she met the love of her life, John Thomas
11 Sessums, and their enduring bond led to their marriage in 1974 that spanned fifty-two years;
12 serving as a testament to love, commitment, and partnership; and

13 WHEREAS, together they built a strong and loving family, welcoming twin sons and
14 creating a home centered on devotion, support, and shared joy; and

15 WHEREAS, Kathy Sessums was a devoted wife, mother, and "Mimi", whose
16 greatest happiness was found spending time with her children, grandchildren, beloved dogs,
17 and the many friends who she considered family; and

18

1 WHEREAS, whether enjoying weekends in Florida or on the river, she cherished
2 time on the water surrounded by loved ones, creating lasting memories that will be treasured
3 for generations; and

4 WHEREAS, Kathy Sessums will be remembered for her strength, intelligence,
5 warmth, and the deep and abiding love she extended to all who knew her; and

6 WHEREAS, her professional life was marked by an extraordinary forty-six year
7 career in public service with the state of Louisiana, beginning in 1978, during which she
8 played a pivotal role in transforming state government information systems; and

9 WHEREAS, starting in a clerical position, her exceptional abilities were quickly
10 recognized as she advanced through determination and hard work to become an agency
11 accountant within the Department of Health and Human Resources, now known as the
12 Louisiana Department of Health; and

13 WHEREAS, throughout her career, she assumed numerous leadership roles and
14 responsibilities, demonstrating unmatched analytical reasoning and a remarkable
15 near-photographic memory that distinguished her among her peers; and

16 WHEREAS, Kathy led the development of the state's first cost allocation system at
17 the Louisiana Department of Health, establishing a critical foundation that continues to guide
18 statewide financial operations and resource management; and

19 WHEREAS, her expertise and vision culminated in her appointment as director of
20 Louisiana's Enterprise Resource Planning system, LaGov, where she oversaw the
21 implementation of a comprehensive, statewide system integrating accounting, finance,
22 budgeting, procurement, payroll, inventory, capital projects, travel, training, and grant
23 services; and

24 WHEREAS, throughout Kathy's leadership, LaGov replaced outdated and siloed
25 systems, modernized state operations, and generated millions of dollars in taxpayer savings,
26 becoming an essential component of Louisiana's governmental infrastructure; and

27 WHEREAS, Kathy Sessums worked tirelessly with agencies across the state to unify
28 systems and improve efficiency, leaving an indelible mark on the operations of state
29 government and the lives of Louisiana's citizens; and

30 WHEREAS, her dedication, mentorship, and leadership profoundly influenced

1 colleagues and employees, many of whom benefited from her guidance and unwavering
2 commitment to excellence; and

3 WHEREAS, in recognition of her distinguished service, she was awarded the
4 "Charles E. Dunbar, Jr. Career Civil Service Award" in 2022, the highest honor bestowed
5 upon classified state employees, a testament to her outstanding contributions to the people
6 of Louisiana; and

7 WHEREAS, she is survived by her beloved husband, John Thomas Sessums; her
8 sons, Brady Sessums and his wife Cinclare Sessums, and Casey Sessums and his wife
9 Rebecca Sessums; and her cherished grandchildren, Elizabeth Sessums, John Brady Sessums
10 Jr., "JB", Marcelle Sessums, and Thomas Sessums; and

11 WHEREAS, while her passing leaves a profound void, her legacy endures through
12 her family, her contributions to public service, and the countless lives she touched with her
13 kindness, wisdom, and generosity.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
15 does hereby express its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Kathleen "Kathy"
16 Sessums and does honor and celebrate her remarkable life and enduring legacy of service,
17 love, and leadership.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
19 family of Kathleen "Kathy" Sessums as an expression of the Senate's sympathy and respect.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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