

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 152

BY SENATOR FOIL

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of Susan Ann Traylor Bittick and to celebrate a remarkable woman whose brilliance, spirit, and unforgettable presence left a lasting mark on all who knew her.

WHEREAS, Susan was born on September 4, 1954, in Hughes Springs, Texas, to Robert "Bob" H. Traylor and Jodie Bess Wallace Traylor, and was the cherished sister of Gary Traylor; and

WHEREAS, from her earliest years, Susan was known for her vibrant spirit, warmth, and ability to bring joy to those around her, qualities that remained hallmarks of her life; and

WHEREAS, Susan graduated from Gilmer High School in 1973 before launching a successful journalism career that spanned sixteen years, during which she served as food editor for the Longview Morning Journal and city editor of the Shreveport Times; and

WHEREAS, her sharp intellect and commanding presence led her to cover the gubernatorial campaign of former Florida Governor Bob Martinez before ultimately serving as his press secretary; and

WHEREAS, never one to stop challenging herself, Susan returned to school to pursue higher education, earning a bachelor's degree in Latin American Studies from Louisiana Tech University in 1990 before attending St. Louis University School of Law, where she distinguished herself as editor of the Law Journal and graduated in 1995; and

WHEREAS, she later earned a Master of Laws degree from the University of Houston in 2006, further cementing her reputation as a formidable legal and policy mind; and

WHEREAS, she devoted the last nineteen years of her accomplished career to Ryan, LLC, where she most recently served as a principal in the company's U.S. Advocacy practice and earned national recognition as a leading and influential voice in state tax policy; and

WHEREAS, colleagues and peers admired Susan for her intellect, professionalism, integrity, mentorship, extraordinary work ethic, and unwavering commitment to public

service, remembering her as dynamic, insightful, and a powerful advocate, and describing her as "wicked smart", "a firecracker", and "a force to be reckoned with"; and

WHEREAS, Susan was a cherished member of the Louisiana Capitol team affectionately known as "The Roses and The Thorns", where her wit, intuition, friendship, unmistakable personality, and infectious laugh made her deeply admired and treasured among the group and by all those around her; and

WHEREAS, despite her many professional accomplishments, Susan's greatest joy was the life she built with her beloved husband, Tom Bittick, whom she met at a Christmas party in 1990 and married on October 5, 1991; and

WHEREAS, together they shared a passion for travel, exceptional food, fine wine, and new adventures, with Susan especially cherishing her travels to London and countless other cities around the world; and

WHEREAS, Susan embraced life with unmistakable style and enthusiasm, never missing an opportunity to dance and rarely seen without her signature heels; and

WHEREAS, she was an avid reader, an accomplished gardener known for producing an abundance of tomatoes and countless jars of homemade marinara sauce, an avid art collector with exceptional taste and appreciation for fine art, and a devoted lover of Christmas music on vinyl and her beloved dogs, especially her rescue dog, Mavis; and

WHEREAS, family game nights were legendary occasions, particularly when Susan insisted upon playing Monopoly as the Scottie Dog token and threatened to read the entire rulebook aloud whenever she suspected cheating, which she often did; and

WHEREAS, Susan possessed a rare combination of fierce determination, quick wit, immense kindness, and boundless generosity; qualities that endeared her to family, friends, colleagues, and all those fortunate enough to cross her path; and

WHEREAS, Susan embraced Louisiana's unique culture and traditions, especially enjoying annual gatherings and outdoor excursions with dear friends and colleagues that celebrated the state's rich cuisine, camaraderie, and sporting heritage, particularly her memorable alligator hunting adventures and her plans to transform treasured keepsakes from those experiences into handcrafted items reflecting her adventurous spirit, creativity, and deep love for Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Susan leaves behind a legacy of love, wisdom and devotion to her family, friends, and colleagues; she is survived by her loving husband of thirty-four years, Tom Bittick; her brother, Gary Traylor, and his wife, Chasha; her sisters-in-law, Elizabeth Bittick Dailey, and Mary Bittick Camden, and Mary's husband, Mike, her uncle, Jerry Traylor, and many loving nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews who affectionately knew her as "The Greatest Aunt"; and

WHEREAS, Susan Ann Traylor Bittick lived boldly, loved deeply, and left behind a lasting mark of brilliance, kindness, humor, grace, and unmistakable flair that will continue to inspire and uplift all who knew and loved her.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Susan Ann Traylor Bittick.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to her husband, Tom Bittick, and her brother, Gary Traylor.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE