

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 151

BY SENATOR FOIL

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of Edith Kay Kirkpatrick.

WHEREAS, the Baton Rouge community and the State of Louisiana suffered a profound loss with the passing of Edith Kay Kirkpatrick on Sunday, May 10, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Edith Kay Kirkpatrick, affectionately known as "Kay", was born in Jennings, Louisiana, on July 14, 1946, to her parents, Claude and Edith Kirkpatrick; and

WHEREAS, from a young age, Kay displayed remarkable musical talent and, at just twelve years old, earned recognition as a childhood prodigy through her performance of a piano solo with the New Orleans Philharmonic Orchestra; and

WHEREAS, at the age of thirteen, she moved with her family to Baton Rouge, where she attended Lee High School and was recognized for her academic excellence, character, and leadership, serving as student body vice president and being voted "Most Likely to Succeed"; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, Kay attended Louisiana Girls State and returned in 1964 as a counselor, after which she served as a volunteer and frequent speaker at Girls State conventions; and

WHEREAS, while attending Louisiana State University, she was an active member of Chi Omega sorority serving as an officer and participating in Angel Flight, ultimately rising to the rank of national commander; and

WHEREAS, Kay graduated with her first degree from Louisiana State University in 1968, the same year her brother completed LSU Law School, and desired to follow him into the legal profession; and

WHEREAS, after graduating with a master's degree and a PhD in Speech and Psycholinguistics, she later earned a law degree from LSU and was admitted to the bar in 1977; and

WHEREAS, her early legal career with East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney Ossie Brown included distinguishing herself as the "go-to" person for matters before the state appellate courts and the Louisiana Supreme Court on behalf of the District Attorney; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Governor Buddy Roemer appointed Kay as Assistant Executive Counsel to the Governor, where her responsibilities expanded beyond criminal law to include environmental, fiscal, educational, and other policy matters including key decisions affecting the state and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, Attorney General Richard Ieyoub appointed her as Deputy Attorney General in charge of the Civil Division, where she handled a majority of the office's work and participated in negotiations with the United States Department of Justice regarding challenges to the state's higher education system; and

WHEREAS, Kay concluded her distinguished public service career as General Counsel for the University of Louisiana System; and

WHEREAS, she generously supported LSU Law School by establishing the E. Kay Kirkpatrick Endowed Superior Graduate Scholarship in Public Law to inspire future attorneys pursuing careers in government and public law; and

WHEREAS, Kay leaves to cherish her memory her brother, Charles Kris Kirkpatrick, and his wife, Jane; her sister-in-law, Sandra Futrell Kirkpatrick; and numerous beloved nieces, nephews, extended family members, and close friends, all of whom were blessed to know her.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana extends its deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the family and loved ones of Edith Kay Kirkpatrick.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Edith Kay Kirkpatrick.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE