

2026 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 87

BY SENATORS LAMBERT AND PRICE AND REPRESENTATIVES BACALA,
BRASS, EDMONSTON AND WILEY

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences on the passing of Walter "Wally" Taillon, "Mr. Jambalaya", a beloved community leader, master cook, mentor, and longtime champion of the Gonzales Jambalaya Festival.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the
3 passing of Walter "Wally" Taillon, "Mr. Jambalaya", beloved community leader,
4 master cook, mentor, and longtime champion of the Gonzales Jambalaya Festival.

5 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned
6 of the passing of Walter "Wally" Taillon, of Gonzales, Louisiana, a beloved community
7 leader, master cook, mentor, and longtime champion of the Gonzales Jambalaya Festival,
8 who departed this life at the age of eighty; and

9 WHEREAS, Wally Taillon devoted decades of faithful service to preserving and
10 promoting one of Louisiana's most treasured culinary traditions through his leadership and
11 dedication to the Gonzales Jambalaya Festival Association; and

12 WHEREAS, affectionately known throughout the community as "Mr. Jambalaya",
13 Mr. Taillon served as president of the Gonzales Jambalaya Festival Association for more
14 than twenty years, guiding the organization with vision, integrity, and unwavering
15 commitment; and

16 WHEREAS, under his leadership, the festival experienced tremendous growth and
17 stability, including the successful return of the event to Gonzales in 1999 after it had been
18 relocated to various sites, thereby restoring an important cultural and civic tradition to its

1 rightful home; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Taillon played an instrumental role in establishing a permanent
3 headquarters for the festival association, transforming what once consisted merely of rented
4 storage units into a lasting home for the organization and its cherished traditions; and

5 WHEREAS, as the World Champion Jambalaya cook in 1993, Wally Taillon's talents
6 extended far beyond competition, as he became a respected mentor to generations of cooks
7 who followed in his footsteps and competed in the Gonzales Jambalaya Festival and World
8 Championship competitions; and

9 WHEREAS, his love for people and his generosity were legendary throughout
10 Ascension Parish and beyond, as he was known to provide meals, assistance,
11 encouragement, and support to anyone in need, often from his own pocket and without
12 hesitation; and

13 WHEREAS, family, friends, and community members alike remember Wally Taillon
14 as a pillar of the Gonzales community whose compassion, humility, and servant's heart
15 touched countless lives; and

16 WHEREAS, his enduring legacy will continue through the many individuals he
17 mentored, the traditions he helped preserve, and the community spirit he embodied so
18 faithfully throughout his life; and

19 WHEREAS, Walter is survived by his wife, Rita, and children, Darrin and Kellie,
20 and his passing leaves a tremendous void in the hearts of those who knew and loved him, the
21 people of Louisiana remain grateful for his extraordinary contributions to the culture,
22 heritage, and fellowship that define the state's unique way of life.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
24 express heartfelt and sincere condolences upon the passing of Walter "Wally" Taillon and
25 does honor his life of service, leadership, generosity, and dedication to the Gonzales
26 community and the Gonzales Jambalaya Festival Association.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
28 family of Walter "Wally" Taillon as an expression of the legislature's deepest sympathy and
29 enduring 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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Expresses condolences upon the passing of Walter "Wally" Taillon.