

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 359

BY REPRESENTATIVE RISER

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Robert H. "Bob" Baumann, longtime director of the Louisiana State University Center for Energy Studies and trusted advisor on Louisiana energy policy.

WHEREAS, it was with deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens of Louisiana learned of the death of Robert H. "Bob" Baumann on Thursday, November 6, 2025, at the age of seventy-four; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting to express enduring gratitude for Bob Baumann's outstanding contributions to this state, particularly during more than three decades of service to Louisiana State University and to the industries that serve as the foundation of the Louisiana economy; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in the Queens borough of New York City, Bob Baumann graduated from the University of Rhode Island and arrived in Baton Rouge in 1974 to pursue graduate studies at Louisiana State University, where he earned his Master of Science degree in geography in 1980 under Dr. Jess Walker, with a thesis examining the interrelationships of marsh elevation, water level, sedimentation, and other selected variables in the Lower Barataria Basin; and

WHEREAS, Bob Baumann fell in love with LSU and the Baton Rouge community and never returned to the northeast, putting down deep roots in Louisiana and devoting the whole of his professional life to the people, institutions, and industries of this state; and

WHEREAS, Bob Baumann was a founding member of the LSU Center for Energy Studies upon its establishment in 1982 and over the course of his tenure, rose to lead the center, building it into an indispensable source of energy information and analysis for the legislature, public agencies, business and civic groups, and the academic community, and there was no part of his long career of which he was more justifiably proud than his work on behalf of Louisiana State University; and

WHEREAS, Bob Baumann served as a confidant, friend, and advisor to multiple leaders of the LSU system, beginning with Chancellor James Wharton, who recognized his quiet capability and brought him into his inner circle during the 1980s campaign to institute more selective admission standards at the university; and

WHEREAS, Bob Baumann served for many years as LSU's representative at the state capitol, earning the trust of legislators across the political spectrum and securing critical support for the university's teaching, research, and outreach missions until his retirement from LSU in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Bob Baumann's blend of intellectual rigor and steady, plain-spoken clarity made him one of the most trusted voices on energy policy in the state; as Tyler Gray, a director of the LSU Energy Institute, observed, Bob "authored influential research, advised governors and legislatures, and shaped major debates with a calm, steady clarity that made even the most complex oil and gas issues understandable" and was "a tremendous mentor to generations of students, colleagues, and policymakers"; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, in recognition of a career spent bettering the working environment of Louisiana's oil and gas industry, Bob Baumann received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Louisiana Independent Oil and Gas Association, becoming only the third individual so honored in the association's history; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association presented Bob Baumann with the Hard Hat Award in recognition of his exemplary and outstanding contributions to Louisiana's oil and natural gas industry, an honor reflecting a lifetime of service to the sector; and

WHEREAS, Bob Baumann was a champion of Louisiana industry at every level of the legislative process and a persistent voice of reason on questions of pipelines, refining, petrochemicals, and the broader industrial activity that drives the state's economy, drawing on a depth of technical and historical knowledge that made him a trusted resource for legislators, agency officials, and industry advocates alike, on whichever side of an issue they happened to find themselves; and

WHEREAS, following his retirement from the university, Bob Baumann opened the next chapter of his career as a principal of Hood, Baumann and Associates, where he counseled and represented some of the most significant energy enterprises operating in

Louisiana, including Shell Oil, ConocoPhillips, Enbridge, TC Energy, Phillips 66, and PBF Energy, and continued to bring his characteristic care and seriousness to the work of Louisiana energy policy until the final days of his life; and

WHEREAS, beyond his roles in research and advocacy, Baumann remained a stalwart supporter of his academic home in the LSU Department of Geography and Anthropology, securing critical funding for the renovation of the Departmental Alumni Seminar Room and, with his family, establishing the Robert H. Baumann Family Scholarship Fund to support outstanding students in the sciences for years to come; and

WHEREAS, all who worked with Bob Baumann over the course of his long career appreciated his graciousness, his integrity, and his unmistakable northeast accent softened by decades of Louisiana hospitality and knew him as a generous mentor, a candid counselor, and a true gentleman of the capitol; and

WHEREAS, from the front porch of his office on Spanish Town Road, affectionately known to those who passed through it as the "Policy Porch," Bob Baumann hosted legislators, lobbyists, agency officials, students, reporters, and friends for wide-ranging conversations on anything and everything happening at the capitol, holding open a kind of standing seminar on Louisiana public life that no other forum could replicate; and

WHEREAS, Bob Baumann was a mentor in the fullest sense of the word; generous with his time, his sage advice, and his wealth of knowledge and a great many of those who today carry forward Louisiana's energy and industrial policy work owe some part of their professional formation to an afternoon, an introduction, or a candid piece of counsel from him; and

WHEREAS, above all, Bob Baumann was a devoted family man with an unwavering commitment to his wife, Brenda, and their two sons, Frank and Kyle, who will be missed profoundly by his beloved family and the many other individuals whose lives he touched with his wisdom and generosity of spirit; and

WHEREAS, with the death of Bob Baumann, the state has lost a faithful adopted son, a builder of institutions, and a larger-than-life figure whose counsel shaped a generation of Louisiana energy policy and whose absence will be felt at the Louisiana State Capitol every day of every session to come.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Robert H. "Bob" Baumann; does hereby recognize and record for posterity his notable accomplishments and singular contributions to Louisiana State University, to the LSU Center for Energy Studies, and to the broader cause of sound energy and industrial policy in this state; and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the pride and honor that he will forever bring to his family, to LSU, to the Baton Rouge community, and to the state of Louisiana.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES