SLS 13RS-933 **ORIGINAL**

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY SENATORS JOHNS, MORRISH AND JOHN SMITH AND REPRESENTATIVES DANAHAY, FRANKLIN, GEYMANN, GUINN, HENSGENS AND KLECKLEY

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Junius Joseph "Joe" Champeaux II.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Junius Joseph "Joe" Champeaux II.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens of the state of Louisiana learned of the death of Mr. Junius Joseph "Joe" Champeaux II on March 31, 2013, at the age of seventy-four; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Champeaux was born on January 15, 1939, in New Iberia to J. Joseph and Isabelle Champeaux; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from Landry High School in 1957 which is where he met his high school sweetheart, Rosalie "Poddy" Leveque; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation, Joe studied architecture at the University of Southwestern Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, he finished his undergraduate degree and received a master's degree at Tulane University, and subsequently received a second master's degree at Rice University with specialties in architecture, urban design, and city planning; and

WHEREAS, on July 29, 1961, Joe married the love of his life, "Poddy" Leveque and from their union, three daughters were born: Renee Michelle, Caron Cherise, and Marjorie Annette; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, Joe passed the Architecture Registration Exam and enlisted in the United States Air Force where he served as a proud member of the 4420th Combat Support Group, 1st Air Commando Wing of the Tactical Air Command at the Special Air Warfare Center at Hurlburt Field, which is a part of the greater Eglin Air Force Base in Florida; and

WHEREAS, he was assigned to the engineering department and worked with the Wing Commander, General Gilbert Pritchard, on improvements at Hurlburt Field; and

WHEREAS, after serving three years in the United States Air Force, Joe received the Air Force Commendation Medal for Meritorious Services which is the highest award given for non-combat service, and at the end of his service, Joe and his family moved back to Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, he was named the first in-house city planner in Lake Charles and in 1972, he became a principal in the firm Barras Breaux Champeaux; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Joe became the first and only architect from southwest Louisiana to be elected by his peers to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects, which is a lifetime honor bestowed upon architects for their notable contributions to the profession; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1980s, he established his own architectural firm and in 2004 the firm expanded to Champeaux Evans Hotard; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Joe retired from the firm but continued to consult as requested; and

WHEREAS, he served as president of the American Institute of Architects and the Louisiana Architects Association and was named to the United States Capital Planning Task Force in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, his forty years of practice as an urban designer involved thirteen cities throughout the United States and Canada, as well as consultation for the United States Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina; and

WHEREAS, Joe had the honor of representing American architects at an international earthquake conference in Tokyo, Japan, and also presented a paper on United States land use and planning methods; and

WHEREAS, he consulted in fifteen states on matters of life safety, public access, urban design, ordinance preparation for standards of safety and convenience of public spaces, and preparing urban design character sketches reflecting future development potential; and

WHEREAS, Joe served pro bono as an urban designer and as chairman on the American Institute of Architects National Regional Urban Design Teams in thirteen states; and

WHEREAS, members of those design teams assist communities throughout the United States in developing a vision for the future, along with specific action plans to improve land use within those communities; and

WHEREAS, Joe was instrumental in the development of many buildings and public spaces in the Lake Charles area, including Operation GRIP, Operation Heartbeat, the original boardwalk around the lakefront, the Christus St. Patrick Cancer Center, the Southwest Louisiana Entrepreneurial and Economic Development Center, the American's Wetlands Discovery Center, the Family Life Center at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, and the St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Joe Champeaux was an active community leader and served as chairman of the Board of Directors for the Southwest Louisiana Chamber of Commerce and as president of the following organizations: the American Red Cross of Southwest Louisiana, the United Cerebral Palsy Organization of Southwest Louisiana, the St. Louis Catholic High School Board, the Christus St. Patrick Board of Councilors, and president and district governor of the Lake Charles Chapter of Serra International; and

WHEREAS, he volunteered his time and service to the Junior League of Lake Charles by designing their logo and providing the cover design and sketches for the Pirates Pantry Cookbook; and

WHEREAS, his sketches have also been donated to various organizations including Lake Charles "Save the Arcade", the Junior League's Follies scenery, the Louisiana Choral Foundation stage sets, the Children's Miracle Network telecasts for more than twenty years, the Central School for the Dudie Thielen Award, the Chamber Southwest for economic development proposals, and numerous schools and churches; and

WHEREAS, Joe was on the Board of the Krewe of Contraband for many years, served as the Master of Ceremonies, and was honored as its king in 2008; and

WHEREAS, he was an active member of St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, and, most recently, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception; and

WHEREAS, Joe is survived by his wife of fifty-one years, Rosalie "Poddy" Marie Leveque Champeaux, and his three treasured daughters, Renee Wood and husband Frank; Cherise Sale and husband Chris; and Annette Cotton and husband Blake; and six cherished grandchildren, Ashley and Frankie Wood; Andre Champeaux and Simone Sale; and Marie and Camille Cotton; and was preceded in death by his parents, J. Joseph and Isabelle Champeaux; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Joe Champeaux was a gentleman who was admired by all whose lives he touched, leaves behind a rich and unique legacy, and is greatly missed; and

WHEREAS, although the death of Mr. Champeaux has left a tremendous void in his community, his memory shall live forever in the minds and hearts of all who knew and loved him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Junius Joseph "Joe" Champeaux II, does hereby recognize and record for posterity his accomplishments and contributions, and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the pride and honor that he will forever bring to his family, friends, community, and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Junius Joseph "Joe" Champeaux II.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Nancy Vicknair.

DIGEST

Johns SCR No. 30

Expresses condolences upon the death of Junius Joseph "Joe" Champeaux II.