

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

BY SENATOR BROOME

CONDOLENCES. Expresses sincere condolences upon the passing of former state Senator Mike Cross.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of former mayor of Baker and former Louisiana State Senator, Michael A. Cross, and to celebrate his life of public service, his humanity, and his many contributions made on behalf of the citizens of Senate District 13, of the city of Baker, and of the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it was with deep regret that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the death of former state senator, Mike Cross, on November 18, 2013, at the age of sixty-nine; and

WHEREAS, Mike Cross was an affable gentleman, kind and considerate, who possessed an indomitable spirit; he was open and honest; a consummate man of the people who never met a stranger, a vibrant human being with an endearing compassion for those he represented; and

WHEREAS, he was born on September 8, 1944, to parents, Aduron B. Cross and the former Margie McCulloch; and

WHEREAS, after graduation from Baker High School in 1962, he attended the University of Southwestern Louisiana, now known as University of Louisiana at Lafayette; and

1           WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Baker, Mike was employed as a chemical plant  
2 manager when his life of public service began with his election as a member of the Baker  
3 City Council in 1972 and later with his election as the city's mayor in 1976; and

4           WHEREAS, at that time, Mike was the youngest elected city council member and  
5 mayor in Louisiana and won a second mayoral term in 1980; and

6           WHEREAS, with each election he ran a grassroots campaign; he walked door-to-  
7 door, shook hands, and asked constituents about improvements that would make their  
8 community a better place in which to live; and

9           WHEREAS, his accomplishments were many, as councilman he voted to reduce the  
10 city's utility service fee to a flat rate of one dollar per month for senior citizens and as mayor  
11 he had ad valorem taxation rates reduced by thirty-three percent; and

12           WHEREAS, as mayor he was very energetic and brimming with new ideas; he  
13 focused on efficiency in city government operations that included adoption of a digital  
14 database format for utility services; and he was frugal with taxpayer monies and always had  
15 an end-of-year surplus; and

16           WHEREAS, in 1981, after serving five years as mayor, he ran and was elected to the  
17 Louisiana State Senate in a special election to fill a vacated seat and for fifteen years he  
18 represented Senate District 13 that included portions of the parishes of East Feliciana, East  
19 Baton Rouge, and Livingston; and

20           WHEREAS, during his distinguished tenure in the Louisiana Senate, Senator Cross  
21 authored and coauthored various critical pieces of legislation concerning pro-life issues,  
22 prolabor and the prevailing wage, local and municipal finance, tighter regulation of anabolic  
23 steroid usage, establishment of the Baker Independent School District, flood control and  
24 drainage infrastructure projects, and the creation of the homeschool program that provided  
25 parents with an educational alternative that allowed for a home-study curriculum; and

26           WHEREAS, during his exemplary service to the citizens of Louisiana, Senator Cross,  
27 a conservative, was a loyal and viable member of the Democratic Party; however, he cared  
28 little for partisan politics and more about what he could do for the betterment of the people  
29 he served; and

30           WHEREAS, while in the Louisiana Senate he served as vice-chairman of the Finance

1 Committee and he also served on Senate committees on Judiciary B, Local and Municipal  
2 Affairs, Retirement, Environmental Quality, and Labor and Industrial Relations; and

3 WHEREAS, after his tenure ended in the Louisiana Senate in 1996, Mike Cross was  
4 appointed as vice president of the Louisiana Housing Corporation, then opened his own  
5 lobbying firm, Cross and Co., which represented high level clients such as CLECO electric  
6 utilities and the Louisiana Municipal Association; and

7 WHEREAS, Mike Cross enjoyed the company of others; he possessed a friendly  
8 demeanor and a fun-loving spirit of adventure no matter what the activity; he loved music  
9 and singing; also he frequently used an adage which he attributed to his father, that  
10 "Everyday is a good day, some are just better than others."; and

11 WHEREAS, Mike Cross is survived by his wife, Kristie, four sons, Shane Michael,  
12 Clifton Lance, Ryan Michael, and Matthew Aaron, two daughters, Lauren Adrienne and  
13 Christen Joanna Cross, and two sisters, Pat Cross and Lori C. Martinez, plus a host of  
14 precious friends and extended family; and

15 WHEREAS, Mike Cross shall be remembered by his many contemporaries in the  
16 Louisiana Legislature for his ability to stand his ground on principle, his fearlessness, his  
17 tireless work ethic, and his ability to speak directly from his heart; as a legislator, he was  
18 tenacious, always focused on the task at hand, and always personable; and

19 WHEREAS, Mike Cross was a Christian with a generous heart who shared his  
20 invaluable knowledge with others; he proved himself to be a man of many talents and of his  
21 word, and a man whose dedication to this state and its people was without par; and

22 WHEREAS, he wore the mantle of community service proudly and willingly while  
23 extending courtesy and friendship to all; and

24 WHEREAS, although the passing of Mike Cross has left a tremendous void in his  
25 community, he leaves a rich and unique legacy that shall live on in the hearts of all who  
26 knew him throughout the halls of this Legislature and the state of Louisiana.

27 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
28 express its sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the passing of Senator Mike Cross,  
29 businessman, civic leader, and legislator, and does hereby acknowledge that his life was  
30 well-spent in service to his country, his community, and his state.

1           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his  
2 widow, Kristie Cross.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Susan P. Montague.

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DIGEST

Broome

SCR No. 15

Expresses condolences upon the death of former Baker mayor and state senator, Mike Cross.