

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

BY SENATOR CROWE AND REPRESENTATIVE SIMON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Viola Cocran and to commend posthumously her volunteer efforts at Slidell Memorial Hospital, which earned her designation in the Guinness Book of World Records.

WHEREAS, Viola Cocran died on September 29, 2013, leaving her family and community to cope with the void remaining from the loss of a woman who had devoted her life to raising her family but, also, to a lifetime of service to Slidell Memorial Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Cocran's daughter, Suzanne Mabie, reported that in the mid 1950s Mabie's younger sister was quite ill and was taken to the hospital in New Orleans, causing Cocran to understand, firsthand, the need for a full-service hospital on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain; and

WHEREAS, Cocran's commitment to making the hospital a reality, which began before the hospital was built, included her efforts as a member of the steering committee that met with the legislature to obtain permission to build the community hospital; and

WHEREAS, Cocran began her volunteer work at Slidell Memorial Hospital in 1959 and continued until her retirement in March 2012, amassing over seventy-seven thousand volunteer hours; and

WHEREAS, Cocran's involvement in establishing a hospital on the north shore moved from the planning stages to being present on opening day, assisting the first patient, a woman in labor who delivered her child in the brand-new hospital; and

WHEREAS, current volunteer director for Slidell Memorial Hospital, Laurie Manley, stated that the process to have Viola Cocran named in the Guinness book as having logged the most volunteer hours at a single hospital was begun prior to Cocran's death in September 2013 and took two years to come to fruition; and

WHEREAS, Manley reports that the process used by Guinness required extensive documentation, including copies of time sheets, letters from people who served with Cocran, a list of all volunteer positions she held, and photographs of her volunteering in various departments of the hospital; and

WHEREAS, Manley also stated that Cocran served in every department of the hospital in her fifty-three years of service, which included years when she was raising her family and working a full-time job as well; and

WHEREAS, current Slidell Memorial Hospital Chief Operating Officer, Bruce Clement, upon hearing of the Guinness designation, stated, "Viola gave Slidell Memorial Hospital and this community an amazing gift. She not only gave her time, but her heart and soul"; and

WHEREAS, the hospital will be celebrating Viola Cocran's designation in the Guinness Book of World Records as the individual who logged the most volunteer hours at a single hospital with a reception and an unveiling of the award; and

WHEREAS, the hospital is encouraging the community to attend and celebrate Viola's exceptional gifts of her time and heart that she gave to her community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express their condolences upon the death of Viola Cocran and commend posthumously her volunteer efforts at Slidell Memorial Hospital, which earned her designation in the Guinness Book of World Records.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Bruce Clement at Slidell Memorial Hospital for presentation to the family of long-time volunteer, Viola Cocran.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES