

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY REPRESENTATIVES STUART BISHOP, ABRAMSON, NANCY LANDRY, AND ROBIDEAUX AND SENATORS CORTEZ, ADLEY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD, AND WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express condolences upon the death of Carl W. "Wimpy" Bauer and to express enduring gratitude for his outstanding contributions to Acadiana and the state of Louisiana, particularly during his tenure as a distinguished member of the Louisiana House of Representatives.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the Louisiana House of Representatives and the Louisiana Senate have learned of the death of Carl W. "Wimpy" Bauer, of Lafayette, on June 11, 2013, at the age of seventy-nine; and

WHEREAS, Carl Packard Wiegmann was born in Centerville, Louisiana, on October 4, 1933, as the third son of Fred and Mary Packard Wiegmann; his biological parents divorced a few years later, and he was placed in a foster home in Alpine, Texas, at the age of five; and

WHEREAS, the foster home was arranged by a distant cousin, Margaret Wooster Bauer, whose aunt, Elma Wooster Boudreaux, took care of Carl until he was twelve; he then returned to Louisiana, initially as the foster child of Margaret Wooster Bauer and her husband, R. Norman Bauer, both lawyers in their mid-forties; and

WHEREAS, the Bauers formally adopted Carl the following year and changed his name to Carl Wiegmann Bauer; he enjoyed life in Franklin, Louisiana, as the only child of Margaret and Norman Bauer and was blessed from the moment he entered their home; and

WHEREAS, Carl carried their name proudly from the day of his adoption until death, always remembering just how fortunate he was to have such loving parents who gave him not only their revered name but their wisdom, work ethic, generosity, and kindness; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from Franklin High School in 1951, Carl enrolled at Louisiana State University (LSU), where he completed his undergraduate work and the first year of law school in 1955; having completed the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at LSU, he was then called to active duty, to be trained as a navigator at Ellington Air Force Base in Houston, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bauer received his Air Force wings and was stationed in Waco, Texas, Panama City, Florida, and Sacramento, California, before being released from active duty in 1957; and

WHEREAS, upon his return to civilian life, Mr. Bauer completed his legal education at LSU and joined the law firm of his father, Norman, and beloved uncle, Theodore, at Bauer and Bauer, Attorneys at Law; and

WHEREAS, Carl, at the age of fourteen, was a page in the Louisiana House of Representatives, where his father served as Speaker of the House under Governors Sam Jones and Jimmy Davis; this was a life-changing experience for Carl as he became severely infected with the "political bug"; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, Mr. Bauer entered a special election race for a vacant seat in the House of Representatives, representing St. Mary Parish, the same parish his father had served with admirable distinction; Carl won that election, completed the unexpired term of two years, and then successfully ran for a full term in a newly created district which included Iberia Parish; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bauer served four full years in the House of Representatives under the administration of Governor John McKeithen; during his tenure in the legislature, he championed many causes of good government and tirelessly promoted funding the four-laning of US Highway 90 from Lafayette to New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bauer continued this highway interest and determination after leaving public office through dedicated efforts towards transforming Highway 90 to interstate standards as a continuation of I-49; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Mr. Bauer ran unopposed for a new senate district and served with honor and distinction on the Senate Finance committee and the Transportation, Highways and Public Works committee; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in the Senate, then Senator Bauer authored legislation creating the West St. Mary Parish Port Harbor and Terminal District which still exists today; and

WHEREAS, at the age of fifty-seven, Mr. Bauer joined the staff of Dr. Ray Authement, the President of the University of Southwestern Louisiana (USL), as the coordinator of governmental relations; Carl served in this capacity until shortly after Dr. Authement's retirement nearly twenty years later; and

WHEREAS, Carl Bauer lived a long, active, and varied life full of love, opportunity, people, and experiences; he had a successful law practice, numerous business interests, unprecedented career opportunities, and a wonderful family, along with a multitude of friends; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bauer's professional career included membership on many boards of directors, including the Lafayette Economic Development Association, the Louisiana Enterprise Center, the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, and the Gulf and Great Plains Legal Foundation, in addition to several private landholding companies; and

WHEREAS, while in the practice of law, Carl served the State Bar Association in both the House of Delegates and on the Board of Governors; in 1968, he was elected as president of the LSU Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bauer also served several years as a member of the board of the USL Foundation and was involved in the Boy Scouts; he was a longtime member and past chairman of the Board of Goodwill of Acadiana; and

WHEREAS, while still in Franklin, Mr. Bauer served on and chaired both the Administrative Board and the Trustees of the First Methodist Church and when he moved to Lafayette, he was an active member of Asbury United Methodist Church; he was also a Master Mason, a Shriner, and a member of Rotary; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bauer is survived by his loving wife of thirty-three years, Mary Jane Peacher Bauer; six wonderful children; and eight adored grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Carl W. Bauer received much from his two marriages, including the love and devotion of six remarkable children, four of his own blood and two by virtue of a superb marriage to Mary Jane, whom he loved beyond belief; his blessings multiplied with the births of his eight marvelous grandchildren, each of whom he adored as they mutually adored their "Poppy"; and

WHEREAS, while he experienced his share of heartache, including the loss of his sight in recent years, he never lost sight of the positives in his life; Carl Bauer was a very positive person who left this world firmly convinced that life is good, family is love, friends are priceless, and God has blessed America; and

WHEREAS, the death of Mr. Bauer has left a great void and created a genuine sense of sorrow in all who knew him, including the members of the legislative family, all of whom mourn the loss of this wonderful man who served his state and this institution with distinction, integrity, and statesmanship.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of former state representative Carl W. "Wimpy" Bauer and does hereby record for posterity the enduring appreciation of the citizens of Louisiana for his outstanding contributions and achievements, particularly during his tenure as a distinguished member of the Louisiana House of Representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Carl Bauer.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE