HLS 14RS-2077 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 55

BY REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON AND SENATOR GALLOT

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences upon the death of Sheriff J.R. Oakes

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To express condolences upon the death of former United States Marshall and Claiborne
3	Parish Sheriff J.R. Oakes.
4	WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the Legislature of
5	Louisiana has learned of the death of J.R. Oakes on Thursday, January 9, 2014, at Northern
6	Louisiana Medical Center in Ruston, Louisiana, following a lengthy illness; and
7	WHEREAS, J.R. Oakes was an outstanding public servant whose excellence as a
8	sheriff merited his consistent re-election to office for twenty-five years, during which time
9	he fully used every opportunity to serve the citizens of Claiborne Parish in an honorable and
10	dedicated manner; and
11	WHEREAS, J.R. Oakes was born on June 30, 1929, in Homer, Louisiana, to James
12	Madison Oakes and Sallie Gryder Oakes; and
13	WHEREAS, Mr. Oakes was ordained as a deacon in the First Baptist Church of
14	Homer in 1954; he faithfully served his church as a deacon in various positions for more
15	than sixty years; and
16	WHEREAS, service in his church and community was a prominent characteristic of
17	his life; he was a longtime member of the Homer Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club,
18	Homer Jaycees, and the Homer Volunteer Fire Department; and
19	WHEREAS, Mr. Oakes served as the sheriff of Claiborne Parish from 1968 to 1993,
20	when he was nominated by United States Senators J. Bennett Johnston and John Breaux to

1 serve as the U.S. Marshall for the Western District of Louisiana; upon his nomination, Mr. 2 Oakes was confirmed by the Senate and appointed by President Bill Clinton; and 3 WHEREAS, Mr. Oakes was superbly devoted to God, his family, and his many 4 friends; he loved public service and held a special affection for all of his friends that worked 5 in law enforcement; and 6 WHEREAS, Mr. Oakes was preceded in death by his parents and his first wife, 7 Jemmie Vardeman Oakes, to whom he was married from 1954 to 1990; and 8 WHEREAS, Mr. Oakes is survived by his wife Juanita Stone Oakes; one daughter, 9 Paula Jane Oakes Sears; one son, James Madison Oakes and wife Tammie; and five 10 grandchildren, Hilary and Shelby Sears, and John, Ty and Matt Oakes; and 11 WHEREAS, it is with heavy hearts that the entire state says goodbye to one of 12 Louisiana's finest sons and empathizes with the tremendous pain that Mr. Oakes' family and 13 friends are suffering and joins them in mourning the loss of this extraordinary gentleman; 14 and 15 WHEREAS, Mr. Oakes will forever be respected and remembered by his fellow 16 citizens for his singular contributions as a most personable and selfless sheriff and for his 17 steadfast commitment to the citizens of Claiborne Parish, his family and friends, and his 18 community. 19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 20 express deepest sympathy to the family of J.R. Oakes, and offer prayers and thoughts during 21 this difficult time, does hereby recognize the enduring impact that he had on the lives of his 22 fellow citizens, does hereby extend the hope that his family and friends will be granted the 23 strength they need to cope with the loss of this outstanding citizen whose memory shall live 24 forever in the minds and hearts of all who knew and loved him, and does hereby extend 25 appreciation for his enduring legacy that will forever bring great pride and honor to 26 Claiborne Parish and the state of Louisiana. 27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted 28 to the family of J.R. Oakes.

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HCR NO. 55

## **DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Jefferson HCR No. 55

Expresses condolences upon the death of J.R. Oakes, former sheriff of Claiborne Parish.