

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 51

BY SENATOR ALLAIN

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of former Louisiana State Representative and United States Congressman, Patrick T. Caffery Sr.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Louisiana statesman, The Honorable Patrick T. Caffery Sr., and to recognize his years of service to the Legislature of Louisiana, the Congress of the United States, and the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it is with great sadness that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing of Congressman Pat Caffery of New Iberia, a distinguished gentleman, renown attorney, civic leader, and former member of the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors, on December 17, 2013, at the age of eighty-one; and

WHEREAS, Pat Caffery was a renaissance man of unique talents, intelligence, and curiosity, who, through diligence and hard work, had experienced great success in public life and was blessed with the thoughtful demeanor of a true southern gentleman; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Thomson Caffery was born on July 6, 1932, at Haifleigh Plantation in St. Mary Parish, to parents Ralph Earl and Letitia Decuir Caffery; he was a favorite son of Louisiana and perhaps even destined to legislative service, in that, he was the grandson of former United States Senator Donelson Caffery; and

WHEREAS, reared in Franklin, he enrolled in Southwestern Louisiana Institute, now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, attended on a music scholarship for trumpet, was

1 elected student body president, and received the saber award as outstanding third-year cadet
2 in the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC); and

3 WHEREAS, Pat Caffery was an enthusiastic disciple of jurisprudence; he earned his
4 law degree from Louisiana State University Law Center; and while in law school, he served
5 in the prestigious position of managing editor of the Louisiana Law Review for 1955-56; and

6 WHEREAS, after passing the bar, Pat Caffery joined the New Iberia law firm of
7 Helm, Simon, Caffery and Duhe and later established the firm of Caffery, Duhe and Davis
8 with partners John M. Duhe Jr. and Eugene Davis; and

9 WHEREAS, Caffery served as an assistant district attorney for the Sixteenth Judicial
10 District from 1958 until 1962; later in 1964, he was elected to the Louisiana House of
11 Representatives and served one term with committee assignments to House committees on
12 Contingent Expense, Judiciary C, and Ways and Means; and

13 WHEREAS, he was elected to the United States Congress in 1968, representing
14 Louisiana District Three during the Ninety-first and Ninety-second Congress and serving on
15 the Public Works committee, until he did not seek reelection in 1973; and

16 WHEREAS, after leaving Capitol Hill, Pat Caffery returned to New Iberia and
17 immersed himself in the practice of law, art and music appreciation, and continued
18 community service to the citizenry of Iberia Parish; and

19 WHEREAS, as a talented musician, he had an avid interest in the history and culture
20 of music, especially jazz and jazz musicians like Bunk Johnson, a New Iberia native; he was
21 also involved with the Iberia Community Band; and

22 WHEREAS, his philanthropy was boundless and he had longtime service as both
23 member and officer of the New Iberia Community Chest, the New Iberia United Givers
24 Fund, the Iberia Crippled Children's Association, the Iberia District of the Boy Scouts of
25 America, the Rotary Club, and the Catholic High School Board of Directors; and

26 WHEREAS, he received many accolades during his prestigious career that included
27 receipt of the New Iberia Jaycees' Distinguished Service award and the Distinguished
28 Service Award by the Americans for Constitutional Action; and

29 WHEREAS, many public and nonprofit agencies benefitted from his guidance,
30 including that of appointment to the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors from

1 1988 until 1992, as a member he provided wise counsel on issues that involved tuition
2 increases, loans extended to fraternal organizations, and advanced desegregation plans for
3 institutions of higher learning; and

4 WHEREAS, throughout his life Pat Caffery was a man of action and his proactive
5 stance made him a positive force at all levels of human endeavor; and

6 WHEREAS, he is survived by the love of his life, Anne Bercegeay Caffery, sons,
7 Patrick Jr., Kevin, and Michael; six grandchildren, extended family, and dear friends; and

8 WHEREAS, Pat Caffery was a man of great strength and intellect, a caring individual
9 who has left his mark on the community of New Iberia and the state of Louisiana, who
10 envisioned the potential for each individual, and who met the challenges of life head-on with
11 zeal and candor tempered with immense love of family and compassion for his fellow man.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
13 express its sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the passing of a renowned statesman,
14 The Honorable Patrick T. Caffery Sr.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
16 celebrate his extraordinary life and commend the rich legacy that Pat Caffery leaves to the
17 benefit of future generations and acknowledges a life well-spent in the service of his country,
18 his community, his state, and his God.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his
20 widow, Mrs. Anne B. Caffery.

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

DIGEST

Allain

SCR No. 51

Expresses condolences upon the death of former Congressman Pat Caffery of New Iberia.