

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 119

BY SENATOR DORSEY-COLOMB

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Rosie Guidry Harris.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret that the members of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the passing of Rosie Guidry Harris, a resident of Gretna, on April 26, 2014, at age ninety-four; and

WHEREAS, she was mother of former Gretna mayor and current executive director of the Louisiana Municipal Association, Ronnie Harris, and sister to former longtime state representative Richard "Dick" Guidry, who died on March 26, 2014; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her family, Mrs. Harris was perhaps proudest of her work to keep the French language alive in southeast Louisiana as she founded a West Bank chapter of Les Amis du CODOFIL, or Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, in her living room in 1979 and she continued to teach a French immersion class, even into her nineties; and

WHEREAS, she was born in Cut Off and grew up on Bayou Lafourche speaking French and was motivated for creating CODIFIL-Westbank from her experience of being punished for speaking French in the schoolyard; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, Rosie Guidry Harris was presented the Prix de Louisiane for her work during a French Mass at St. Louis Cathedral in celebration of Bastille Day and was an "unofficial" interpreter during World War II in France; and

WHEREAS, Rosie got involved with campaigning for her son, Ronnie Harris, in the election for mayor of Gretna in 1985, establishing herself as a dogged campaigner; and

WHEREAS, she was an active member of the community, a charter member of Twilight Garden Club, a member of Timberlane Garden Club and Gretna Historical Society, and parishioner of St. Joseph and St. Cletus churches; and

WHEREAS, she was the daughter of the late John Leonce Guidry and Elaine Lefort "Lillian" Guidry and sister of Robert F. Guidry and the late Lloyd and Richard P. "Dick" Guidry; and

WHEREAS, she was the beloved wife of the late Clyde A. Harris Sr., by first marriage and the late Ray A. Gremillion Sr., by second marriage; mother of Kathleen Harris (Allen) Little, Clyde A. "Skip" Harris Jr. (the late Toy), and Ronnie C. Harris (Donna); grandmother of Laura, David, Andrew, Emily and William; great-grandmother of Isla, Taylor, Collin, Lucas, Trace, Noah, and Lance; and

WHEREAS, Rosie Guidry Harris was a true lady with Southern grace and a sweet, gentle teacher who was a delight to those with whom she worked; and

WHEREAS, with her passing, a tremendous void is left in her community and in this state; but her love, compassion, dedication, and grace will be forever remembered by her relatives and friends and all who had the opportunity to meet and know her.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend sincere condolences to the family of Rosie Guidry Harris on the occasion of her death and do hereby record for posterity that Rosie Guidry Harris made an indelible mark on her family, her community, and this state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Kathleen Little, Clyde A. "Skip" Harris Jr., and Ronnie C. Harris.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE