

BY REPRESENTATIVE GAROFALO

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express condolences upon the death of Judge Manuel "Manny" Adam Fernandez and to

3 express enduring gratitude for his outstanding contributions to the state of Louisiana,

4 particularly during his tenure as a distinguished member of the Louisiana House of

5 Representatives.

6 WHEREAS, Manuel "Manny" Adam Fernandez was born in St. Bernard Parish on

7 October 15, 1942, to Manuel William Fernandez and Blanche Perez Fernandez Molero; and

8 WHEREAS, Judge Fernandez attended St. Bernard Parish public schools graduating

9 from St. Bernard High School in 1960 and then attended the University of Southwestern

10 Louisiana (USL) in Lafayette where he earned an undergraduate degree in economics; and

11 WHEREAS, upon graduation from USL, which is now known as the University of

12 Louisiana, at Lafayette, in 1964, Judge Fernandez enrolled in the Loyola University Law

13 School in New Orleans from whence he earned his Juris Doctorate in 1967; and

14 WHEREAS, as a practicing attorney for thirty-four years, Judge Fernandez was

15 president and a member of the St. Bernard Bar Association, the Louisiana Bar Association,

16 and had been admitted to practice law before the United States Supreme Court, the United

17 States Court of Claims, and all federal and state courts in the state of Louisiana; and

18 WHEREAS, Judge Fernandez devoted decades to serving the citizens of the state of

19 Louisiana, beginning his public service as the representative of District 104 in the Louisiana

20 House of Representatives where he served from 1972 through 1987, serving as a member

1 of the House committees on civil law and procedure, retirement, labor and industrial
2 relations, and natural resources for which he served as chair; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Fernandez said that as a legislator he was most proud of helping to
4 rewrite the community property laws so that wives had equal management rights of
5 community property; he also helped develop the current joint custody rights of children; and
6 as chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, he was the author of legislation
7 creating the Department of Environmental Quality; and

8 WHEREAS, upon his departure from the legislature, Mr. Fernandez was appointed
9 by Governor Buddy Roemer to serve on his "kitchen cabinet", a three-person super cabinet
10 that would serve as liaison between the governor's office, the departmental secretaries, and
11 the legislature and would enable the departmental secretaries to focus on running their
12 departments rather than becoming embroiled in the political lobbying on behalf of the
13 administration, with Mr. Fernandez serving in this capacity for two years and being
14 responsible for the departments of Social Services, Health and Hospitals, Wildlife and
15 Fisheries, Natural Resources, and Environmental Quality; and

16 WHEREAS, in May 2001, Mr. Fernandez was elected judge to fill a partial term on
17 the Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Court, Division B to which he was re-elected and where
18 he served until his retirement in the summer of 2013; and

19 WHEREAS, while serving on the Thirty-Fourth Judicial District bench, Judge
20 Fernandez was a guest lecturer and presenter on many legal subjects, served as the Louisiana
21 editor on environmental texts, co-authored an article on the rights of the terminally ill that
22 was published in medical journals, and he served as chief judge and was the founder of the
23 drug court in the Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Court; and

24 WHEREAS, Judge Fernandez was stepson of the late Scott Molero; the husband of
25 Dorothy Harrington Fernandez; the father of Gina Fernandez, Jill Willie, and Amy
26 Ybarzabal and stepfather of Casey Hutchens; and grandfather (Pop Pop) to Nick, Eric,
27 Daniel, Ben, and Madeline Priola; Foster, Simon, and Samuel Willie; Adam, Gabrielle,
28 Kyle, and Camille Ybarzabel; and Emily Hutchens; and

29 WHEREAS, Judge Fernandez was proudly recognized as "Man of the Year" and
30 "Legislator of the Year" in St. Bernard Parish; and

1 WHEREAS, Judge Fernandez will be forever remembered as a loving and loyal
2 husband, father, grandfather, and a friend to many, who loved his community and treasured
3 his family; and

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

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
9 express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of former state representative Judge
10 Manuel "Manny" Fernandez and does hereby record for posterity the enduring appreciation
11 of the citizens of Louisiana for his outstanding contributions and achievements, particularly
12 during his tenure as a distinguished member of the Louisiana House of Representatives.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
14 to the family of Judge Fernandez.

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)]

Garofalo

HCR No. 154

Expresses the condolences of the legislature upon the death of Judge Manuel "Manny" Fernandez, former member of the House of Representatives.