

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 150

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUVAL AND SENATOR MILLS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express condolences upon the death of Albert "Pyook" Berard, husband, father, grandfather, brother, friend, and world-renowned musician.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Legislature of Louisiana learned of the death of Albert "Pyook" Berard of Cecilia, Louisiana, on Wednesday, February 26, 2014, at the age of fifty-three; and

WHEREAS, born June 26, 1960, in the small town of Cecilia, Mr. Berard was born with the gift of music; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Berard began playing the guitar as a young boy, and in high school, started a rock band, in which he played lead guitar; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Berard was a founding member of the bands "Basin Brothers" and "Al Berard Cajun Combo" and collaborated with many of South Louisiana's greatest musicians during his career; and

WHEREAS, he was proud of his South Louisiana roots, and as a singer, songwriter, fiddle player, and guitarist, he shared his gift of music with the world by playing traditional and original Cajun French music; and

WHEREAS, his musical achievements include a grammy nomination in 1991 and numerous awards from the Cajun French Music Association, including Fiddler of the Year in 2007, Song of the Year in 2006, and Recording of the Year in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Berard was a faithful and dedicated parishioner of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Cecilia, a member of the church choir for over forty years, and a member of the Knights of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Berard is survived by his loving wife of over thirty-two years, Karleen G. Berard; three daughters, Dr. Opal LeBlanc Reon, and husband, Cody, Laura Huval, and husband Adrian, and Maegan Berard; two brothers, Jim Berard and wife, Jackie, and Rex Berard and wife, Belinda; four sisters, Ella Goulas and husband, Ronald, Penny

Guidry, Genie Patin and husband, Norton, and Sylvia Charpentier; and three grandchildren Nate, Tex, and Claudia; and

WHEREAS, with the death of Mr. Berard, Louisiana has lost one of its finest citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Berard, who was admired by all whose lives he touched, leaves behind a rich and unique legacy and is greatly missed; and

WHEREAS, the soul of a people is maintained and cultivated by its artists, and through his music, Mr. Berard ensured that Cajun heritage would remain vibrant and sustain kinship among the people of South Louisiana for generations; and

WHEREAS, although the death of Mr. Berard has left a tremendous void in his community, his memory shall live forever in the minds and hearts of all who knew and loved him and in the music that he loved dearly.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Albert "Pyook" Berard of Cecilia, does hereby recognize and record for posterity his outstanding accomplishments and contributions as a musician and citizen, and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the pride and honor that this wonderful man will forever bring to his family, friends, community, state, and nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Albert "Pyook" Berard.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE