

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 129

BY SENATORS JOHNS AND MORRISH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of William Boyce Baggett Sr., former Louisiana State University football player and outstanding attorney in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, William Boyce Baggett was born in Greenville, Texas, on June 2, 1929, and he died in his home in Lake Charles with his family around him on May 20, 2015, at the age of eighty-five; and

WHEREAS, Baggett obtained an undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University where he played on the football team; and

WHEREAS, Baggett played halfback on the LSU football team for three seasons, 1948 through 1950, and he was an integral part of the offense of those teams; and

WHEREAS, Billy Baggett was the LSU football team's leading rusher in his final two seasons, helping the Tigers to an eight win record in 1949 and averaging five and a half yards per carry during that season; and

WHEREAS, Baggett averaged six and one-half yards per carry during his senior season in 1950 and set two rushing records that stood for decades; and

WHEREAS, in the 1950 season game in which LSU defeated Ole Miss by a score of forty to fourteen, Baggett ran eleven times for a total of 192 yards and an average of 17.4 yards per carry, a record which stood for thirty-seven years until 1987 when Harvey Williams rushed for an average of 19.6 yards per carry and the game total stood as a team record until LSU star Terry Robiskie rushed for a total of 214 yards against Rice University in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Baggett was drafted by the National Football League Los Angeles Rams in 1951, but he did not play for the Rams because he was traded to the Dallas Texans and played for that team for the 1951 season, the only season in which that NFL franchise

existed; and

WHEREAS, after his try at the NFL, Baggett returned to Louisiana and attended law school at LSU, graduating with his law degree in 1953; and

WHEREAS, that same year Billy Baggett married the love of his life, Kara Gael Salter, and the two shared a remarkable life of love and devotion bringing them both immense joy and satisfaction for more than sixty years; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, Baggett founded the Baggett-McCall law firm, which eventually became Baggett, McCall, Burgess, Watson & Gaughan, L.L.C., and he practiced law in his adopted home town of Lake Charles, Louisiana, never officially retiring from the practice of law; and

WHEREAS, during his long and distinguished legal career, Baggett served as president of the Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association in 1966 and 1967, he was president of the Southwest Louisiana Bar Association in 1967, he served on the Association of Trial Lawyers of America's Board of Governors from 1972 through 1975, and he served as president of the Louisiana Bar Association in 1980, all positions of prestige and leadership within the legal profession; and

WHEREAS, throughout their long life together, Kara and Billy found great joy and love in their family which includes daughter Judy Baggett Maselli and sons William B. Baggett Jr. and wife Rae Lee, and Christopher Frank Baggett and wife Jane, and grandchildren Katie, Annie, Kara, Kaough, Molly, Sophia, Gus, Caroline, Blake, and Erin; and

WHEREAS, Baggett's law partners were an important part of his life as was his involvement with Sale Street Baptist Church, where he worshiped; and

WHEREAS, Baggett enjoyed fishing, cattle ranching, and scouting for deer, particularly on his Kara Farms ranch in east Texas; and

WHEREAS, upon Baggett's death, LSU Athletic Director, Joe Allewa, stated: "Billy Baggett was a great man and a tremendous supporter of LSU. He was one of the great players of his generation and he was passionate about LSU football. Billy was just as supportive of academics and the LSU Law School. He loved LSU. He's going to be missed."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere condolences upon the death of William Boyce Baggett Sr., former Louisiana State University football player and outstanding attorney in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mrs. Kara Gael Salter Baggett.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES