

1 to attend Louisiana State University where as a varsity letterman he held three consecutive
2 Sugar Bowl boxing championship titles, placed twice as runner-up in the National College
3 Athletic Association Boxing Championship, received the prestigious Billings Memorial
4 Award for Boxing, and was inducted into the LSU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1977; and

5 WHEREAS, Bobby Freeman distinguished himself in military service as a special
6 agent in the United States Army Counter-Intelligence Corps and was honorably discharged
7 in 1959; and

8 WHEREAS, he obtained a law degree from Loyola University Law School in 1965,
9 and established the law firm of Freeman and Pendley in Plaquemine; his legal career
10 spanned more than five decades for which he received accolades from his peers and the
11 Louisiana State Bar Association; and

12 WHEREAS, as a man of God, Bobby Freeman was a compassionate individual and
13 lifelong democrat who felt a close connection to the less fortunate and felt compelled to be
14 a voice for the disadvantaged and downtrodden; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1966, Bobby Freeman first answered the call to public service as
16 chairman of the Plaquemine Planning and Zoning Commission, then ran for the first of three
17 terms in the Legislature of Louisiana; he tirelessly represented the constituency of the
18 Sixtieth District of the House of Representatives composed of the parishes of Iberville,
19 Pointe Coupee, and West Baton Rouge; his legislative tenure spanned the administrations
20 of governors John J. McKeithen and Edwin W. Edwards; and

21 WHEREAS, this was an exciting era in state government, as the transitional period
22 before and after adoption of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, when broad changes were
23 applied to governmental functions; and

24 WHEREAS, Representative Freeman performed his duties with noteworthy aplomb,
25 with membership on standing house committees that included Labor and Industrial
26 Relations, Appropriations, Judiciary A, House and Governmental Affairs, and the special
27 committee on Affairs of the House; he also provided invaluable guidance as floor leader for
28 Governor Edwin Edwards; and

29 WHEREAS, through his extraordinary talents for compromise, he excelled as a
30 strong supporter of organized labor, education, rural health care, and law enforcement; and

1 WHEREAS, an aggressive campaigner, Bobby Freeman became the 47th lieutenant
2 governor for the state in 1980 and during his two consecutive terms he changed the course
3 of the state's future, bolstered its economic capacities, and ushered in a new age of marketing
4 tactics that propelled tourism into a viable growth industry; and

5 WHEREAS, consolidation of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
6 and related functions within the office of lieutenant governor, had provided a launch pad for
7 Bobby Freeman to centralize efforts to align Louisiana's unique culture and cuisine with
8 promotion of its festivals, parks, museums, and other attractions which were coupled
9 together with aggressive promotion of must-see locales throughout the entire state that
10 expanded the popularity of Louisiana tourism beyond the realm of America's favorite tourist
11 destination, the city of New Orleans; and

12 WHEREAS, his foresight has produced a hospitality industry that performs as one
13 of the more outstanding generators in the state's economic engine; tourism venues annually
14 employ more than 220,000 workers who welcome twenty-eight million visitors who spend
15 an estimated \$11.2 billion in tourist dollars which results in an estimated \$836 million in tax
16 revenue; and by today's national estimates, Louisiana ranks fourth among all tourism
17 markets in the United States; and

18 WHEREAS, in 1990, Bobby Freeman was elected for a six-year term as judge for
19 the Plaquemine City Court, then stepped down from public life to practice law and to
20 occasionally consult with young aspiring politicians; and

21 WHEREAS, he was honored with copious acknowledgments and awards during his
22 lifetime that include receipt of the Louisiana National Guard Cross of Merit, the Martin
23 Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award, the A. Philip Randolph Institute Award (twice), the
24 United Native American Appreciation Award (twice), the Catholic Daughters of America
25 Recognition Award, induction into the LSU Athletic Hall of Fame, the NCAA College
26 Athletics Top 10 Hall of Fame, the Louisiana American Italian Sports Hall of Fame, the
27 USA Southern Region Association Hall of Fame, the National Italian American Sports Hall
28 of Fame, plus receipt of a knighthood from the Republic of Italy in recognition of his
29 community service and his athletic and professional careers; and

30 WHEREAS, a very special and heartfelt recognition for Bobby Freeman as a

1 statesman was his induction into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame in 2008; and

2 WHEREAS, Bobby Freeman did not shy away from controversy, he embraced
3 opposition, he did not back down from a cause that he felt was right and just; he was brave
4 in the face of resistance, yet kind-hearted and courteous to all; and

5 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Governor Bobby Freeman and Governor Edwin Edwards
6 remained friends for the remainder of his life; Edwards remembered him fondly as, "a giant
7 of a man who never said a cross word . . . he was concerned with opportunities for the poor
8 and underprivileged . . . we've remained the best of friends both personally and politically";
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Bobby Freeman is survived by his wife of fifty-seven years, Marianne
11 Drago Freeman, his children, Robert Jr. and Lisa Freeman Guidry; his granddaughter Mary
12 Katherine Freeman Koch, extended family, and cherished friends; and

13 WHEREAS, Winston Churchill once said, "What is the use of living, if it be not to
14 strive for noble causes and to make this muddled world a better place for those who will live
15 in it after we are gone?"; and

16 WHEREAS, Bobby Freeman was such a man and with his passing, the Legislature
17 of Louisiana has lost a dear friend and colleague and the citizens of Louisiana have lost a
18 dedicated, compassionate community leader; and

19 WHEREAS, in death, Bobby Freeman leaves a tremendous void in this state,
20 however, he also leaves a rich and enduring legacy in the annals of Louisiana's political
21 history as a forefather of Louisiana tourism and consummate public servant having provided
22 leadership at all levels of government that include legislative, executive, judicial, and local
23 administrations.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
25 express heartfelt condolences upon the death of the Honorable Robert L. "Bobby" Freeman,
26 former Lieutenant Governor, legislator, and judge for the state of Louisiana and does hereby
27 celebrate the admirable legacy he leaves to this state.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Bobby Freeman shall be fondly remembered for
29 his dignity, his compassion, and his service to his God, his state, and his country.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

