

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 144

BY REPRESENTATIVE STEVE CARTER

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences upon the death of Mary Frey Eaton of Baton Rouge

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Mary
3 Frey Eaton of Baton Rouge.

4 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that the members of the Legislature of
5 Louisiana have learned of the death, on Tuesday, May 24, 2016, of Mary Frey Eaton of
6 Baton Rouge, one of Louisiana's finest citizens; and

7 WHEREAS, Mary Frey Eaton, philanthropist, civic activist, and public servant, was
8 born in Franklinton on September 22, 1924, to Willie May Jones and Major Fred C. Frey;
9 she graduated from Baton Rouge High School and from Louisiana State University with a
10 bachelor's degree in history; and

11 WHEREAS, after the untimely death of her husband, Mrs. Eaton began a career of
12 public service that had profound ramifications and positive impacts throughout every facet
13 of the Baton Rouge community; and

14 WHEREAS, at the age of sixty, she ran for and was elected to the East Baton Rouge
15 Metro Council, on which she served with great distinction and honor from 1988 until 2000;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, the hallmarks of her service on the council were hard work and peace
18 making, which resulted in the admiration and respect of her fellow elected officials and
19 ultimately in her election as mayor pro tempore in 1996; and

20 WHEREAS, Mary Frey Eaton was driven by a profound sense of civic responsibility
21 and obligation and understood politics to be a noble calling, believing service in elective

1 office to be as much a civic responsibility as working with Boy Scouts or serving on a
2 church board; and

3 WHEREAS, Mrs. Eaton served on countless civic boards which reflect her passions:
4 she cared deeply about the Arts and helped found the Community Fund for the Arts, served
5 on the boards of the Baton Rouge Opera Association and the Baton Rouge Symphony
6 Auxiliary, and was involved with the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge, the LSU
7 Museum of Art advisory board, and the Frank Hayden Memorial Committee; she was also
8 passionate about public health issues and was involved with the AIDS Task Force Advisory
9 Committee and the Woman's Hospital Foundation, and helped establish the Family
10 Counseling Service of East Baton Rouge Parish; and

11 WHEREAS, over the course of decades of never-faltering community service, Mary
12 Frey Eaton was publicly recognized by her community on numerous occasions; among other
13 awards and recognitions, she was the recipient of the Golden Deeds Award (1984), the
14 Junior League of Baton Rouge Sustainer of the Year Award (1989), and the Brotherhood
15 Award from the Baton Rouge Chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews
16 (1991), and she was inducted into the LSU Hall of Distinction (1991) and recognized by the
17 YWCA as a woman of achievement (1994); and

18 Whereas the death of Mary Frey Eaton has evoked a tremendous sense of loss within
19 the Baton Rouge community, and in recalling her many years of public service and personal
20 interactions, she has been described as the Grande Dame of Baton Rouge with a grand sense
21 of humor, a person who would hold your hand while talking fondly and tirelessly of local
22 families, neighborhoods, and the community with exactitude and grace, a remarkable and
23 magnificent woman, and a Baton Rouge treasure; and

24 WHEREAS, Mary Frey Eaton was predeceased by her parents, her husband and
25 former state senator, Lewis Wilmot "Puna" Eaton, Jr.; her son, Lewis Wilmot Eaton, III; her
26 sisters, Jean Frey Fritchie and Joan Frey Gallaher; and her brother, Fred C. Frey, Jr.; and

27 WHEREAS, Mrs. Eaton's surviving children and their spouses are Gregory
28 McCarroll Eaton and his wife Anne, Mary Frey Eaton Stewart and her husband Dexter,
29 Susan Martin Eaton, and Barbara Anne Eaton; she is also survived by her grandchildren
30 Margaret Kimble Eaton, Elizabeth Bartlett Eaton, and Lewis Edmond "Lee" Eaton; her

1 great-grandchild, Grace Anne Eaton-Steger; her sister-in-law, Martha Stone Frey; and
2 numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

3 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
4 express its heartfelt sympathies at the passing of Mary Frey Eaton, an outstanding
5 community servant; does hereby record for posterity a small portion of her most noteworthy
6 contributions to Baton Rouge and to Louisiana; and does hereby express enduring gratitude
7 for her life so devoted to the public good.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
9 family of Mary Frey Eaton.

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)]

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