

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 144

BY REPRESENTATIVES STEVE CARTER, CARPENTER, DAVIS, EDMONDS, FOIL, HAVARD, HODGES, IVEY, JAMES, JORDAN, MARCELLE, AND SMITH AND SENATORS ALARIO, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BROWN, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, WALSWORTH, WARD, AND WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Mary Frey Eaton was driven by a profound sense of civic responsibility and obligation and understood politics to be a noble calling, believing service in elective office to be as much a civic responsibility as working with Boy Scouts or serving on a church board; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Mrs. Eaton's surviving children and their spouses are Gregory McCarroll Eaton and his wife Anne, Mary Frey Eaton Stewart and her husband Dexter, Susan Martin Eaton, and Barbara Anne Eaton; she is also survived by her grandchildren Margaret Kimble Eaton, Elizabeth Bartlett Eaton, and Lewis Edmond "Lee" Eaton; her great-grandchild, Grace Anne Eaton-Steger; her sister-in-law, Martha Stone Frey; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE