

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 24

BY SENATOR PETERSON

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of Mr. Silas H. Connor.

WHEREAS, Silas H. Connor was the eighth of nine children born to George Connor and Carrie Dugue Connor of Adaline, now known as Baldwin, Louisiana, born April 2, 1927; and

WHEREAS, the family migrated to New Orleans in 1927 when Silas was six-months old, lived on Milan and Camp streets, moved to Magazine Street until the beginning of World War II in 1942, then relocated to Dufossat Street, which has been the family home until the present day; and

WHEREAS, the Connors were all active members of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church where Silas attended elementary school and was active in church activities and sports; and

WHEREAS, Silas graduated from Xavier Prep High School in 1946, and while at Xavier Prep, he was co-captain and captain of undefeated football teams while in his junior and senior year; and

WHEREAS, later in life, Silas' talent in football would be recognized when he was inducted in the local National Football League; and

WHEREAS, Silas played one year of college football at Xavier University before the Korean War interrupted his college work; and

WHEREAS, he left to serve two years in the Army where his tour of duty provided him with the opportunity to travel to many places such as Atlanta, Georgia; San Antonio, Texas; The Electronics School at Fort Monmouth New Jersey; Seattle, Washington; Tokyo, Japan; Seoul, Korea, and the Presidio in California where he completed his tour of duty in 1953; and

WHEREAS, three miles from the front line in Korea, Silas built a device known as a direction finder from drawings of a fellow soldier who invented the technology; it allowed American troops to see where a walkie talkie signal originated, which prevented Korean soldiers from using communication devices confiscated from killed or captured American soldiers to lure other American soldiers to capture or death; and

WHEREAS, after completing his service in the Army, Silas returned to Xavier University to complete his final year of study where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Arts Education in 1955; and

WHEREAS, Silas began his teaching career at St. Augustine High School where he taught industrial arts and social studies, and in 1958, he began teaching at George Washington Carver Junior High School because, as he said, "the children in the public schools needed him more"; and

WHEREAS, during his thirty years at George Washington Carver as an industrial arts teacher, he was called to serve in many capacities, including ranking teacher, acting assistant principal, and AV coordinator; and

WHEREAS, Silas began and taught the only course in a junior high school in basic electricity in Orleans Parish, and after retiring in 1987, he was once again called upon to serve the students in the public school system because he was the only teacher in Orleans Parish certified to teach drafting, and a group of seniors at John McDonough Senior High School needed credits in drafting in order to graduate, so he spent three additional years post-retirement ensuring that the children of Orleans Parish were able to receive the credits needed; and

WHEREAS, his interest and knowledge base was large and quite varied; he was a lover of the arts, literature, music of all genres, and greatly enjoyed the symphony, gospel concerts, blues festivals, and theater trips to New York and London; and

WHEREAS, Silas was an active member of Blessed Sacrament Booster Club, volunteered his services with the Louisiana Association of Teachers Credit Union for over twenty-five years, serving as chairman of the credit committee, security officer, president, and vice president, and also counseled many individuals to help them get firm financial footing; and

WHEREAS, on June 13, 2016, Silas crossed over to join family and relatives who preceded him, leaving five cherished children from his union with Mary L. Connor: Keith Connor (Leslie), Karen Ann Connor (Wayne Sr.), Kevin Connor, Karla Connor Bender, PhD (Herbert Sr.), and Karl J. Connor, JD, LL.M, Law (Monika); and

WHEREAS, he also leaves a cherished and devoted wife Shirley Lundy-Connor who brought two children to their union, Mark J. Sidney (deceased) and Karen Alana Reine (Kevin); sixteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the passing of Mr. Silas H. Connor and commends him on a life well lived, full of service and love.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Shirley Lundy-Connor, the wife of Silas H. Connor.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE