

2017 First Extraordinary Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10

BY SENATORS ALARIO AND BOUDREAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses sincere condolences upon the passing of former legislator, Armand J. Brinkhaus.

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of the Honorable Armand J. Brinkhaus Sr., renown public servant, beloved gentleman, and a former member of both the Louisiana House of Representatives and the Louisiana Senate, and to celebrate his devotion to the law and the welfare of people of the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it was with deep remorse that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing of Armand J. Brinkhaus Sr., on February 12, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Armand Joseph Brinkhaus was born on November 7, 1935, to parents, Dr. Armand L. Brinkhaus and Julia Thoms Brinkhaus; and

WHEREAS, he attended Sunset High School, Southwestern Louisiana Institute (now known as the University of Louisiana, Lafayette), and Loyola Law School where he received a Juris Doctor degree; and

WHEREAS, as a new law clerk, he served under the tutelage of Judge Al Tate and Judge Cleveland Fruge at the Third Circuit Court of Appeal, and later practiced law with Judge Kaliste Saloom in Lafayette before he established the partnership of Olivier and Brinkhaus law firm in his home town; and

WHEREAS, Armand Brinkhaus was a gentleman who valued and inspired loyalty;

1 his ability to motivate others was legendary; he could bring together differing factions across  
2 issues, across the aisles of the legislature, and include longtime politicians, legislative  
3 neophytes, and lobbyists in the confection of a compromise; and

4 WHEREAS, Brinkhaus was a negotiator without par; his intelligence and depth of  
5 compassion made him an invaluable asset or a formidable opponent; and

6 WHEREAS, Armand Brinkhaus was a dynamic personality, a leader who was both  
7 animated and engaging with strong ties to the Democratic Party, who was keenly attuned to  
8 the needs of his constituents, who served with distinction for a total of twenty-eight years  
9 in the Legislature of Louisiana; and

10 WHEREAS, for nearly three decades he served under the administrations of  
11 governors John McKeithen, Edwin Edwards, David Treen, and Buddy Roemer; and

12 WHEREAS, he was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1968 and served  
13 there until 1976, representing St. Landry Parish; and he garnered assignments on the house  
14 committees on Appropriations, House and Governmental Affairs, and the House Executive  
15 Committee; and

16 WHEREAS, while in the House, Brinkhaus was eyewitness to the adoption of the  
17 new Louisiana Constitution in 1974, a dynamic evolution of the state's legal system; and

18 WHEREAS, in the 1975 election cycle, Brinkhaus was elected to the Louisiana  
19 Senate and served from 1976 until 1996 representing the constituency of District 26 that was  
20 composed of the parishes of Acadia, Avoyelles, Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, and  
21 St. Landry; and

22 WHEREAS, he was proud of the accomplishments that punctuated his service in the  
23 Senate as chairman of the committees on Education and Senate and Governmental Affairs,  
24 and as a member of Judiciary C and Finance committees; and

25 WHEREAS, his effectiveness in the Senate was centered on his vast knowledge of  
26 legislative procedures; he knew the Senate Rules and how those regulations affected the  
27 advancement of legislation; and

28 WHEREAS, as chairman of the education committee he authored legislation to  
29 establish special protections for teachers in the classroom, low interest loans for school bus  
30 drivers, pay increases for teachers, support personnel, and retired educators, and teacher

1 evaluation plans that were to be administered by local school boards; and

2 WHEREAS, he was a compassionate and caring champion of public education for  
3 all, from pre-kindergarten through postsecondary education, for the physically handicapped  
4 and mentally challenged, for expanded curricula for the gifted and talented, for affordable  
5 tuition fees at universities and community colleges, for readily available student loans, and  
6 ample local funding for schools; and

7 WHEREAS, he was instrumental in the establishment of the Council for the  
8 Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL), to aid in the preservation of French  
9 dialects in South Louisiana; and

10 WHEREAS, he received numerous awards and accolades throughout his career, too  
11 numerous to mention, however, for his advancement of CODOFIL, he was especially proud  
12 to receive the L'Association Internationale des Parlamentaries de Langue Francaise L'Ordre  
13 de la Pleiade, an award that recognizes individuals who promote French language and  
14 culture; and

15 WHEREAS, Armand Brinkhaus was an effective leader and legislator with a clear  
16 understanding of many issues and paramount among them was state-supported quality  
17 education for all students; he worked all of his public life to improve the state of Louisiana  
18 and the quality of life for its citizens; and

19 WHEREAS, Armand Brinkhaus touched so many lives in ways that will never be  
20 fully known except by the recipients of his kindness; he was always fair and loyal, and he  
21 always tried to do what was right, even if it was not the popular thing to do; and

22 WHEREAS, he was a loving husband to his wife of fifty-five years, Margaret  
23 Bellemin Brinkhaus, a devoted father to his children, Michelle Prudhomme, Celeste Hebert,  
24 Julia Landry, Armand Jr., Andre, Renee, and Marguerite; and cherished grandfather to  
25 thirteen grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren; and

26 WHEREAS, in death, Armand Brinkhaus leaves a tremendous void in his community  
27 and state, however, he also leaves a rich and unique legacy in the annals of Louisiana's  
28 political history, and he shall remain as a fond remembrance in the hearts of all who knew  
29 him; and

30 WHEREAS, Armand Brinkhaus was a true statesman and the likes of him may not

1 pass this way again.

2           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
3 express its sincere condolences upon the death of former legislator, the Honorable Armand  
4 J. Brinkhaus Sr. and does hereby acknowledge the unique role he played in the development  
5 of the institutions of the state legislature that he loved and the extraordinary examples of  
6 leadership and humanity that he set throughout his life.

7           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that his was a life well-spent in the service to his  
8 community, his state, his country, and his God.

9           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his  
10 wife, Margaret B. Brinkhaus.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Susan P. Montague.

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DIGEST

SCR 10 Original

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