

2017 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 11

BY REPRESENTATIVES TERRY LANDRY, PIERRE, DUSTIN MILLER, ABRAHAM, ABRAMSON, AMEDEE, ANDERS, ARMES, BACALA, BAGLEY, BAGNERIS, BARRAS, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, BISHOP, BOUIE, BROADWATER, CHAD BROWN, TERRY BROWN, CARMODY, CARPENTER, GARY CARTER, ROBBY CARTER, STEVE CARTER, CHANEY, CONNICK, COUSSAN, COX, CROMER, DANAHAY, DAVIS, DEVILLIER, DWIGHT, EDMONDS, EMERSON, FALCONER, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, GLOVER, GUINN, HALL, JIMMY HARRIS, LANCE HARRIS, HAVARD, HAZEL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILFERTY, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HORTON, HOWARD, HUNTER, HUVAL, IVEY, JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, ROBERT JOHNSON, JONES, JORDAN, NANCY LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LYONS, MACK, MAGEE, MARCELLE, MARINO, MCFARLAND, MIGUEZ, GREGORY MILLER, MORENO, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, NORTON, PEARSON, POPE, PRICE, PUGH, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHRODER, SEABAUGH, SHADOIN, SIMON, SMITH, STOKES, TALBOT, THIBAUT, THOMAS, WHITE, AND ZERINGUE

A RESOLUTION

To express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of former state legislator
Armand Brinkhaus.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Louisiana House of Representatives have learned of the death of former state legislator Armand Brinkhaus on Sunday, February 12, 2017, at the age of eighty-one; and

WHEREAS, Armand Joseph Brinkhaus was born on November 7, 1935, in Sunset, Louisiana, graduated from Sunset High School, earned a baccalaureate degree from the University of Southwestern Louisiana (USL), and received a juris doctorate degree from Loyola University in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brinkhaus served as the first law clerk at the Third Circuit Court of Appeal in Lake Charles, practiced law with Judge Kaliste Saloom in Lafayette, and ultimately became a partner in the law firm of Olivier and Brinkhaus in Sunset, where he practiced law until his death; and

WHEREAS, first elected to serve in the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1968 and then elected to serve in the Louisiana Senate from 1976 until 1996, Armand J. Brinkhaus was a distinguished legislator who faithfully served the public as a legislator for twenty-eight years with great dedication to the interests and needs of the people of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in office, Mr. Brinkhaus was a very effective leader and a true statesman, serving with distinction as chairman of both the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee and the Senate Education Committee and as a member of other legislative committees including the House Appropriations Committee, the House Judiciary D Committee, the House and Governmental Affairs Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate Higher Education Committee, the Senate Judiciary C Committee, the House Agriculture Committee, and the Legislative Budgetary Control Council; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brinkhaus was an active and productive member of his community, serving as a member of the board of directors of St. Landry Homestead Federal Savings Bank and a member and chairman of the board of the South St. Landry Community Library; he was also a member of the Fourth-Degree Knights of Columbus and the Elks Club; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brinkhaus lent his time and vast legal knowledge to numerous professional organizations, including the St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, and American Bar Associations, the Louisiana Association of Justice, the American Judicature Society, the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel, and the American Trial Lawyers Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brinkhaus was the deserving recipient of many awards, including distinguished service awards from the St. Landry Parish Farm Bureau and the Handicapped and Exceptional Children of Louisiana, the Louisiana Pharmacy Association, Louisiana Restaurant Association, the Louisiana and National Association of Educators, and the Louisiana Federation of Teachers; he was particularly proud to receive the *L'Association Internationale des Parlamentaries de Langue Francaise L'Ordre de la Pleiade* for his dedication to the development of the French language and the preservation of the francophone culture in Louisiana; he also received the USL Alumni Association Outstanding Legislative Support Award, the Sunset Area Sertoma Club Service to Mankind Award, and a certificate of appreciation for dedication and contribution to the history of the Third Circuit Court of Appeal; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brinkhaus created the Dr. Armand L. and Julia Thoms Brinkhaus Fund to benefit Dupre Library at USL (now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette), which was the first contribution dedicated solely and specifically to Dupre Library; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brinkhaus is survived by his wife of fifty-nine years, Margaret Bellemin Brinkhaus; his children and their spouses, Michelle and Steve Prudhomme, Armand Brinkhaus, Jr., Celeste and Troy Hebert, Julia and Tracy Landry, Andre and Denise Brinkhaus, Renee Brinkhaus, and Marguerite Brinkhaus; grandchildren, Micah, Samantha, Rachel, Lee, Jacob, TJ, Julian, Ali, Gabriel, Mikey, Brandon, Brittany, and Bradley; nine great-grandchildren with two more on the way; his sister, Anna Jane Gaiennie Miller; his sisters-in-law, Diane P. Brinkhaus and Cynthia Bellemin; and his brothers-in-law, John L. Olivier, Michael Bellemin, and Leroy Bellemin and his spouse Blue; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brinkhaus was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Armand L. and Julia Thoms Brinkhaus; his brothers, William A. Brinkhaus and Allan L. Brinkhaus; his sister, Julie B. Olivier; his sister-in-law, Loretta T. Brinkhaus; his brothers-in-law, Richard M. Gaiennie and Roderick Miller; and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Mike and Louise P. Bellemin; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brinkhaus was the kind of citizen who represents what is good about Louisiana, a man of wisdom who used his talents, integrity, and passion to change Louisiana for the better; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brinkhaus leaves a rich and unique legacy, and his death has created a great void and a genuine sense of sorrow in all who knew and loved him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of former state legislator Armand Brinkhaus; does hereby recognize that he will forever be remembered, respected, and admired by the many citizens whose lives he touched, including members of the legislative family who mourn the loss of this wonderful man who served his state and the legislative institution so well; and does hereby recognize for posterity the enduring appreciation of the citizens of Louisiana for his outstanding contributions and achievements, particularly during his tenure as a distinguished member of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Margaret Brinkhaus.