

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 131

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences upon the death of William J. "Billy" Sanchez

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of William J.  
3 "Billy" Sanchez of New Orleans.

4 WHEREAS, the members of the House of Representatives were saddened to learn  
5 of the death of William J. "Billy" Sanchez, at the age of seventy-three; and

6 WHEREAS, William Sanchez was born on August 1, 1943, and matriculated through  
7 the New Orleans public school system; he answered the call to duty and served his country  
8 in the U.S. Air Force for four years; he was a crash rescue fire fighter; and

9 WHEREAS, upon his return from military service, Billy Sanchez was hired in 1966  
10 by the New Orleans Fire Department; Billy earned an associate science degree in fire  
11 technology from Delgado Community College; and

12 WHEREAS, Billy married Norma Mitchell, and he and Norma raised their sons,  
13 Joseph Junis and William Jared; and

14 WHEREAS, Billy Sanchez was named to the New Orleans Fire Fighters Union Local  
15 632 negotiating committee in 1974, was elected vice president of Local 632 in 1976, and  
16 was elected president in 1983; Mr. Sanchez served as president of the New Orleans Fire  
17 Fighters Association, president of the Professional Fire Fighters Association of Louisiana,  
18 and was the state representative for Louisiana of the International Association of Fire  
19 Fighters; and

20 WHEREAS, Billy Sanchez negotiated collective bargaining agreements for union  
21 workers, handled grievances, was an author of his union's constitutions and by-laws,

1 organized new local unions, lobbied legislators at the Louisiana state capitol and in the U.S.  
2 congress, and helped to write national union laws and worked for passage of the laws; and

3 WHEREAS, he was appointed to the New Orleans Fire Fighters Pension & Relief  
4 Fund in 1975 to fill an unexpired term, and in 1976 was elected to a full two-year term; his  
5 reputation as a mover and shaker led to his election as president of the board of trustees,  
6 despite his newcomer status; Billy served six years as president of the board; and

7 WHEREAS, the accomplishments of William Sanchez include service as chairman  
8 of the Louisiana Fire Fighters supplemental pay board and on the Louisiana State Fire  
9 Marshall's advisory council, the round table on arson, the commission on fire safety, and the  
10 council on fire sprinklers; he worked on the Fire Training College advisory council and  
11 round table on fire service standards for Louisiana State University; Mr. Sanchez also  
12 worked for the Louisiana Department of Labor workers' comp advisory commission, the  
13 state's emergency response commission, the Louisiana advisory council for employment  
14 security, the state's trade, industry and tourism commission, the economic development  
15 advisory commission, and the Louisiana Maritime Development Authority; and

16 WHEREAS, Billy Sanchez spent a lifetime as a labor leader and was involved in  
17 lobbying for the Louisiana AFL-CIO; he was a member of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute  
18 and the Southern Federation of Professional Fire Fighters, and he fulfilled his mission to  
19 create better benefits for working men and women; he was known as a tough fighter who  
20 never backed down; and

21 WHEREAS, while family and friends will miss his presence, the memories of the life  
22 of William Sanchez will forever remain in the minds and hearts of those who knew and  
23 loved him.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
25 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend deepest condolences upon the death of William  
26 J. "Billy" Sanchez; does hereby record for posterity the achievements made by Mr. Sanchez  
27 on behalf of laborers; and does hereby express best hopes for comfort and peace to those  
28 who mourn the transition of one of Louisiana's finest sons.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
30 to the family of William Sanchez.

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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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