

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 43

BY REPRESENTATIVES LEGER, BAGNERIS, AND GAROFALO

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express condolences upon the death of Edward McNeill, Jr.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Louisiana Legislature have learned of the death of Edward McNeill, Jr., on January 7, 2018, at the age of eighty-seven; and

WHEREAS, Edward McNeill, Jr., was born on July 21, 1930, to Gladys and Edward McNeill, Sr.; he joined the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau in 1972, and as president of the bureau, Ed helped put New Orleans on the map as a destination for group business and conventions; major milestones that happened under his watch include the Mercedes-Benz Superdome opening in 1975, the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center opening in 1985, New Orleans hosting eight Super Bowls and four NCAA men's basketball Final Fours, and an increase in the number of visitors to New Orleans from less than half a million per year to more than eight million; and

WHEREAS, Edward McNeill, Sr., introduced his son to the meetings sector when he worked at the Atlantic City Convention Center; Edward McNeill, Jr., attended Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Ed arrived in New Orleans after working at the Atlantic City Convention Center and serving as Director of Sales for what is now the San Francisco Travel Association; Ed tirelessly worked for the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau as president until his retirement in 2003; thereafter he resided in Windermere, Florida; and

WHEREAS, Ed set the standard in the area's tourism industry for customer relations; he was uninterested with politics and his clients were his first priority; and

WHEREAS, his hard work and passion impacted the lives of many people and positively changed the face of tourism in New Orleans; Ed was inducted into the Destinations International Hall of Fame in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Ed is survived by his loving wife, Sylvia; children, Linda, Teri, and Edward, III; brother, Jim; and five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, although the death of Edward McNeill, Jr., has left a tremendous void in New Orleans and in the tourist industry that he served so long and so well, his legacy shall forever live in the hearts and minds of all the citizens whose lives he touched.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Edward McNeill, Jr.; does hereby recognize and record for posterity the accomplishments and contributions of Mr. McNeill, who was an exemplary businessman who cared deeply about his job, the city of New Orleans, his staff, and his clients; and does hereby pay tribute to Edward McNeill, Jr., for the generous and effective way in which he dedicated his intelligence and his energy to the city of New Orleans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Edward McNeill, Jr.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE