

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 257

BY REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences on the death of former Louisiana First Lady and U.S. Senator Elaine Edwards

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of former
3 Louisiana First Lady and U.S. Senator, Elaine Edwards.

4 WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the
5 Louisiana House of Representatives have learned of the death of Elaine Edwards on
6 Monday, May 14, 2018, at the age of eighty-nine; and

7 WHEREAS, for twelve years, Mrs. Edwards served with great honor as the first lady
8 of Louisiana; she had the distinction of being the state's longest-serving first lady with terms
9 from 1972 to 1980 and 1984 to 1988; and

10 WHEREAS, on March 8, 1929, Elaine Edwards was born to Errol Leo
11 Schwartzenburg and Myrl Dupuy Schwartzenburg in Marksville, Louisiana; she completed
12 her education in parochial and public schools in Marksville, graduating from Marksville
13 High School; in 1949, she married, and she and her husband raised four children: Anna,
14 Victoria, Stephen, and David; and

15 WHEREAS, Mrs. Edwards participated in a variety of civic and philanthropic
16 pursuits, including raising one million dollars for the Crippled Children's Hospital of New
17 Orleans (now known as the Children's Hospital of New Orleans) and volunteering with
18 Special Olympics; and

19 WHEREAS, when long-time Louisiana Senator Allen Ellender passed away, Elaine
20 Edwards was appointed to fill the vacancy; Senator Edwards served on the Agriculture and
21 Forestry Committee and the Public Works Committee; and

1 WHEREAS, Senator Edwards took particular pride in securing federal funding for
2 highways in Louisiana; her proudest moment was convincing members of the Public Works
3 Committee to vote for funds for a north-south highway to connect the two east-west
4 interstates in Louisiana; and

5 WHEREAS, Elaine Edwards was described as having the ability and capacity to
6 become one of the more influential members of Congress, but she resigned in November
7 1972 after J. Bennett Johnston was elected to the Senate seat; and

8 WHEREAS, in the early 1980s she started a small business producing custom-made
9 dresses; Elaine was an accomplished seamstress; she designed and crafted many beautiful
10 creations for her clients; and

11 WHEREAS, Elaine Edwards is survived by her children, Anna Edwards, Victoria
12 Edwards, Stephen Edwards and his girlfriend Kristi Godal, and David Edwards and his wife
13 Laura L. Edwards, fifteen grandchildren, twenty-four great-grandchildren, brother, Ralph
14 Schwartzburg; and numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins; and

15 WHEREAS, Elaine Lucille Schwartzburg Edwards was dedicated to the state of
16 Louisiana, which she loved so dearly; she will be remembered as a true matriarch of the
17 Edwards family, a philanthropist, and the embodiment of class.

18 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
19 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express condolences upon the death of former
20 Louisiana First Lady and U.S. Senator Elaine Edwards; does hereby record her significant
21 contributions to the state of Louisiana; does hereby recognize her dedication to her family
22 and the state; and does hereby recognize that her memory shall live forever in the hearts and
23 minds of all those who knew and loved her.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
25 to the family of Elaine Edwards.

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)]

HR 257 Original

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Johnson

Expresses sincere and heartfelt condolences on the death of former Louisiana First Lady and U.S. Senator Elaine Edwards.