

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Donna G.

3 Klein.

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 one of Louisiana's brightest

6 lights, Donna Klein, on May 14, 2019, at the age of seventy-two; and

7 WHEREAS, Donna Klein was born on January 30, 1947, in Philadelphia, to Frank

8 H. and Margaret T. Guinn; and

9 WHEREAS, when Donna was growing up, her father was in the Army and her family

10 moved from state to state, living in Texas, New Jersey, Virginia, and finally, Florida; she

11 earned an associate degree in nursing at Manatee Junior College (now known as Manatee

12 Technical College) in Bradenton, Florida, and thereafter moved to New Orleans to work in

13 Ochsner Foundation Hospital's intensive care unit, eventually becoming acting supervisor;

14 and

15 WHEREAS, she met and married Russell Klein and walked away from her nursing

16 career; a year later, she signed up for political science classes at Loyola University, and at

17 the age of twenty-seven, with two children and five years of nursing experience, Donna

18 decided to pursue a law degree; and

19 WHEREAS, armed with a bachelor of arts in political science from Loyola and a

20 juris doctorate from Tulane, she went on to develop an expertise in health care law; Donna

21 was one of the first female healthcare attorneys in the city of New Orleans; in September

1 2018 Donna retired as general counsel for Peoples Health Network, a Medicare Advantage
2 organization with more than seventy-five thousand members; and

3 WHEREAS, prior to joining Peoples Health, Donna was managing partner of
4 McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC, in its New Orleans office, head of the healthcare group, partner
5 in charge of marketing, and a member of its management committee; and

6 WHEREAS, she was active in the New Orleans community and was involved in
7 dozens of non-profit pursuits, including serving as a member of the boards of City Year New
8 Orleans, the Dryades YMCA, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, the New Orleans
9 Center for the Creative Arts, the Louisiana Children's Museum, and the Earnest N. Morial
10 Convention Center; she served on the Board of Regents and was chair of the American Heart
11 Association Metro New Orleans Board of Directors, board member and head of the
12 leadership program of the Metropolitan Area Committee/Committee for a Better New
13 Orleans, and a member of the Bayou District of New Orleans Board of Commissioners; and

14 WHEREAS, Donna was recognized for her service numerous times: in 2008 New
15 Orleans City Business inducted her into the Women of the Year Hall of Fame, an honor
16 bestowed only upon those who have been named Woman of the Year three times or more;
17 in 2003 she was the recipient of the Human Rights Campaign humanitarian award; Donna
18 served on the health care transition teams for former governors Kathleen Blanco, Edwin
19 Edwards, and Mike Foster; and

20 WHEREAS, Donna Klein was a tireless advocate for the New Orleans community
21 at large and made paramount contributions to healthcare in Louisiana; she had a deep
22 appreciation for the arts and enjoyed cooking and hosting people in her and Russell's home;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Donna G. Klein is survived by her children, Robin Klein and Steven
25 Klein, and his wife Helen; sister, Margaret Scott, and her husband Greg; nieces, Brooke
26 Nichols, and her husband Josh, and Tyler Wright, and her husband Kevin; nephews, Tucker
27 Scott and Casan Scott, and his wife Jannie; brother-in-law, Edward J. Klein, Jr.; devoted
28 dog, Jesse; and countless dear friends; and

1 WHEREAS, although the death of Donna Klein has left a tremendous void in the
2 healthcare and legal communities that she served so long and so well, her legacy shall live
3 forever in the hearts and minds of all the citizens whose lives she touched.

4 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
5 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express condolences upon the death of Donna G.
6 Klein; does hereby recognize and record for posterity the contributions and accomplishments
7 of Mrs. Klein, an exemplary citizen, nurse, lawyer, wife, mother, and friend, to the city of
8 New Orleans and to our state and nation; and does hereby pay tribute to her for the generous
9 and effective way in which she dedicated her intelligence and her energy to justice.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
11 family of Donna Klein.

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 189 Original

2019 Regular Session

Leger

Expresses condolences of the House on the death of Donna Klein.