

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY SENATORS JOHNS, ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BARROW, BERNARD, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, CORTEZ, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HARRIS, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, MIZELL, MORRIS, PEACOCK, PETERSON, POPE, REESE, SMITH, TALBOT, WARD, WHITE AND WOMACK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of
William A. Oliver.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens of Louisiana learned of the death of William A. Oliver on June 24, 2019; and

WHEREAS, William A. Oliver was born on December 31, 1947, to Achel Palmer Oliver and Ruby Rhea Sawyer Oliver; and

WHEREAS, he lived in Rose Bud, Arkansas, the first six years of his life but grew up in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and graduated from LaGrange Senior High School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Oliver met the love of his life, Carolyn Marie McCool, at McNeese State University in 1967 and proposed on the spot; and

WHEREAS, they recently celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary; and

WHEREAS, while attending McNeese State University, Mr. Oliver joined the Army ROTC and was a distinguished military graduate; and

WHEREAS, he served twenty-one years in the United States Army Reserve as an officer, retiring in 1991 with the rank of Major, having been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his actions and dedication to duty when his unit was activated for Desert Shield in 1990; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Oliver holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from McNeese State University and a Master of Business Administration from Tulane University; and

WHEREAS, he was recognized by his classmates at Tulane University with the prestigious Vorholt Award for Business Leadership in 1990, and as the Distinguished Alumni of the Year in 2005 by McNeese State University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Oliver retired as an officer with BellSouth/AT&T in December 2009, with more than thirty-six years of dedicated service; and

WHEREAS, he served as the AT&T state president for Louisiana for more than eight years, and in 1987 and 1988, he was responsible for all telecommunications services to support the Republican National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, an experience he referred to as a "career defining event"; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as state president, Mr. Oliver was directly responsible for all state, local, and municipal government relations, external affairs, regulatory activities, and political action committee activities, as well as oversight responsibilities for service, revenue, expenses, and media activities in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, he was the AT&T liaison with the Louisiana Public Service Commission from 2000 to 2002, providing leadership for BellSouth's efforts to obtain approval to enter the interstate, interLATA long distance business from the Department of Justice and the Federal Communications Commission; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Mr. Oliver was selected to reign as the King of Washington Mardi Gras, one of the greatest experiences and honors of his life; and

WHEREAS, he has been recognized by the Boy Scouts of America with the 2019 Pillar of Scouting Award, the Silver Beaver, the Distinguished Citizen Award, and by the Youth Leadership Conference as an Outstanding Role Model; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Mr. Oliver began working with Ochsner Health System, serving as a board member for four years, and in 2010, he resigned from the board and moved into a position supporting the organization's philanthropic and government relations work; and

WHEREAS, also in 2010, he became the owner and president of William A. Oliver Enterprises, LLC, which was established to provide consulting and management services for business development, government relations, media relations, external affairs, philanthropy, and organizational design; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Oliver was a registered lobbyist for local government as well as the legislative and executive branches of government in Louisiana, and previously was registered as a federal lobbyist; and

WHEREAS, he worked closely with Senator John Breaux and Congressman Billy Tauzin and was directly responsible for lobbying the Louisiana congressional delegation from 1994 through 2001, with the major legislation during that time frame being the Telecommunications Act of 1996; and

WHEREAS, at the time of his death, Mr. Oliver was building external relationships through business development, hospital acquisition, and governmental affairs; and

WHEREAS, William A. Oliver is survived by the love of his life and wife of fifty years, Carolyn McCool Oliver; three children, Christy Oliver Reeves, Lisa Oliver Thomas, and Michael William Oliver; four talented and adorable grandchildren, Ellen Marie Farmer, Kyra Jane Reeves, Jonathan Michael Oliver, and Lucy Sawyer Reeves; a sister, Martha Sue Oliver Way; and a brother, Kenny Layne Oliver; and

WHEREAS, he is preceded in death by his parents, Achel Palmer Oliver and Ruby Rhea Sawyer Oliver; and a daughter, Jane Rachelle Oliver; and

WHEREAS, the death of William A. Oliver has left a substantial void in his community and a sense of loss in the citizens whose lives he touched, and his memory shall live forever in the minds and hearts of all those who knew and loved this remarkable gentleman.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of William A. Oliver, record for posterity his outstanding achievements, and extend enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that he will forever bring to his community, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of William A. Oliver.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES