

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 50

BY SENATOR FOIL

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Billy M. Seay PhD, the founding Dean of Louisiana State University Honors College, and long-time academician at Louisiana State University.

WHEREAS, Billy Seay was born in Bismark, Arkansas, and died in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on December 4, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Billy Seay graduated from Southern State College in Magnolia, Arkansas, and received his PhD in psychology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison; and

WHEREAS, Billy Seay, PhD came to Louisiana State University in 1964 as a young psychologist, but one who had already published a then groundbreaking study of mother-infant separation, coauthored by his major professor at the University of Wisconsin, Harry F. Harlow; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Seay was married to the love of his life, Nedra Dees Seay, for sixty years and the couple raised two children, daughter Delecia, and son Franklin, as well as five beloved grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Billy Seay was committed to his faith and was a long-time member and deacon of University Baptist Church, where he also served as a Sunday School teacher; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed fishing, reading, camping, and traveling with his wife, as well as texting with his grandchildren, which he learned to do particularly to be able to stay in touch with them; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, LSU opened the Honors College, renamed the Roger Hadfield Ogden Honors College in 2014, as an academic community offered to the top ten percent of students admitted to LSU, housed in the heritage-listed French House, and offering a curriculum of seminar classes, mentoring relationships with faculty, and opportunities for undergraduate research culminating in the Honors Thesis; and

WHEREAS, Billy Seay, PhD was named the founding dean of the Honors College in 1992, a position he held until his retirement from LSU in 2003; and

WHEREAS, one of Dr. Seay's proudest moments was watching his granddaughter, Margaret Carey, graduate from the Ogden Honors College in December, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Billy Seay lived a life focused on his love of family, faith, and his academic commitment to students at LSU, first in the field of psychology, and then as the dean of a bold academic enterprise begun in the 1990s that continues to serve the best and the brightest students well into the twenty-first century.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere condolences upon the death of Billy M. Seay, PhD, the founding dean of the LSU Ogden Honors College and long-time academician at LSU.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mrs. Nedra Dees Seay, widow of Dr. Seay.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE