

2020 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 3

BY REPRESENTATIVES SCHEXNAYDER, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BACALA, BAGLEY, BEAULLIEU, BISHOP, BOURRIAQUE, BRASS, BROWN, BRYANT, BUTLER, CARPENTER, CARRIER, GARY CARTER, ROBBY CARTER, WILFORD CARTER, CORMIER, COUSSAN, COX, CREWS, DAVIS, DESHOTEL, DEVILLIER, DUBUISSON, DUPLESSIS, DWIGHT, ECHOLS, EDMONDS, EDMONSTON, EMERSON, FARNUM, FIRMENT, FONTENOT, FREEMAN, FREIBERG, FRIEMAN, GADBERRY, GAINES, GAROFALO, GLOVER, GOUDEAU, GREEN, HARRIS, HENRY, HILFERTY, HODGES, HOLLIS, HORTON, HUGHES, HUVAL, ILLG, IVEY, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, MIKE JOHNSON, TRAVIS JOHNSON, JONES, JORDAN, KERNER, LACOMBE, LANDRY, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MACK, MAGEE, MARCELLE, MARINO, MCCORMICK, MCFARLAND, MCKNIGHT, MCMAHEN, MIGUEZ, DUSTIN MILLER, GREGORY MILLER, MINCEY, MOORE, MUSCARELLO, NELSON, NEWELL, CHARLES OWEN, ROBERT OWEN, PHELPS, PIERRE, PRESSLY, RISER, ROMERO, SCHAMERHORN, SEABAUGH, SELDERS, ST. BLANC, STAGNI, STEFANSKI, TARVER, THOMAS, THOMPSON, TURNER, VILLIO, WHEAT, WHITE, WILLARD, WRIGHT, AND ZERINGUE

A RESOLUTION

To express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Ernest D. Wooton, former state representative and former sheriff of Plaquemines Parish.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Louisiana House of Representatives have learned of the death of Ernest D. Wooton, former state representative and former sheriff of Plaquemines Parish, on May 29, 2020, at the age of seventy-eight, in Belle Chasse, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, a native of Plaquemines Parish and a graduate of Port Sulphur High School, Ernest Wooton attended Louisiana State University and Northwestern State University; after serving in the United States Army from 1964 until 1966, he was an insurance agency manager and then worked in public relations for oilfield sales; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wooton began his long and productive career in public service in 1984 with his election as sheriff of Plaquemines Parish; during his two terms as sheriff, he was admired for his highly effective leadership and made many significant contributions to the community, including founding the Plaquemines Parish sheriff's office shooting range/junior deputy grounds in Myrtle Grove and establishing the Special Olympics in the parish; and

WHEREAS, following his service as sheriff, Ernest Wooton became a widely respected legislator, serving with excellence as the state representative for District No. 105 from 1999-2012, during which time he fully used every opportunity to serve the citizens of his district and the state in an honorable and dedicated manner; and

WHEREAS, Representative Wooton's diligent committee service included serving as chairman of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, as vice chairman of the House Committee on Environment, and as a member of the House Committee on Homeland Security and the Joint Committee on Homeland Security; he also served as a member of the Acadiana Delegation, the Jefferson Parish Legislative Delegation, and the Louisiana Rural Caucus; and

WHEREAS, during his time in the House of Representatives, Representative Wooton worked on and supported many important pieces of legislation, was a steadfast advocate for law enforcement, education, and coastal restoration issues, and was unwavering in his efforts to improve the welfare of his constituents in Plaquemines, Jefferson, and St. Charles parishes; and

WHEREAS, throughout the halls of the state capitol, Representative Wooton was known as a man of his word who had a special talent for diffusing tense moments during legislative proceedings with his trademark humor and as a representative who accomplished much by the sheer force of his own personal credibility and integrity; and

WHEREAS, though Mr. Wooton maintained a somewhat tough exterior, he was a man of compassion and concern for his fellow man; he cared about those he served with in the legislature regardless of their political affiliation and was a source of solid support and advice to his colleagues and staff; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Sheriff Wooton was inducted into the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame, which was founded to recognize individuals who have served the state of Louisiana in law enforcement, corrections, criminal justice, and civil service with great distinction; and

WHEREAS, a truly beloved member of his community, Mr. Wooton was a member of the American Legion, Knights of Columbus, and Alcoholics Anonymous, and he took great pride in his twenty-seven years of sobriety; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Wooton was patriotic to the core and was passionate when expressing his love and appreciation for America and her ideals and when reminding others of the debt of gratitude owed to all who have served and fought for this country; and

WHEREAS, above all, Ernest Wooton was a family man who loved spending time with his wife, children, and grandchildren; he enthusiastically attended their graduations, baseball games, dance recitals, and other activities, often traveling to support them and cheer for them in their endeavors; he left an indelible mark not only on their lives but on the lives of all who knew and loved him and were touched by his loyalty, charisma, great wit, abiding faith, strength of character, and generosity of spirit; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wooton is survived by his wife of fifty-three years, Linda Green Wooton; his children, Jeffrey J. Wooton, and his wife Peggy, Kimberly Wooton Culpepper, and her husband Marvin, and John Dade Wooton, and his wife Therese; his grandchildren and step-grandchildren, Jacob Wooton, Gavin Culpepper, and his wife Averil, Bailey Culpepper, John Dade Wooton II, Ella Wooton, Blake Culpepper, Megan Torres, and her husband Gus, and Erin Ness; his great-grandson and step-great-grandchildren, Ace Culpepper, Tyler Elmer, Riley Elmer, Cruz Torres, and Chloe Torres; and his sister, JoAnn Wooton Defley; and

WHEREAS, with the death of Ernest Wooton, the state has lost one of her finest sons, a man who will be remembered by all who were lucky enough to know him, including the members of the House family, all of whom mourn the loss of this wonderful man who served this institution and this state so well.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Ernest D. Wooton, former state representative and former sheriff of Plaquemines Parish; does hereby recognize and record for posterity his notable accomplishments and singular contributions during his tenure as a distinguished member of the Louisiana House of Representatives; and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the pride and honor that this wonderful man will forever bring to his family, his community, and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Ernest D. Wooton.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES