

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY SENATORS JOHNS, ABRAHAM, HENSGENS AND REESE AND REPRESENTATIVES BOURRIAQUE, CARRIER, WILFORD CARTER, DWIGHT, FARNUM, ROMERO AND TARVER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Jo Ann Drachenberg Beam.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the Legislature of Louisiana learned of the passing of Jo Ann Drachenberg Beam at the age of eighty-five, on May 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, she was born in New Orleans and lived her early life in Port Sulphur, graduating from Port Sulphur High School and attending LSU and McNeese State University; and

WHEREAS, Jo Ann married James C. "Jim" Beam, a newly commissioned second lieutenant in the United States Army, on August 20, 1954, and with him, as he served a two-year tour of duty in Oklahoma and Georgia, they celebrated their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary in 2019; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1970, she served as a secretary for five years at Lake Charles High School, then became a twenty-year secretary in the Office of Student Services at McNeese State University, retiring in 1995 as an administrative secretary; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Beam was a longtime active member of St. Luke-Simpson Methodist Church where she kept track of church attendance and was a member of the Seekers Sunday School class; she taught children's Sunday school, vacation Bible school, and served on the Evangelism Committee, Families Helping Families, Contemporary Worship Committee and as leader of Bible Study Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, she was a volunteer with the Lake Charles Memorial Hospital Auxiliary for twenty-three years, serving for three thousand hours as a patient representative; and

WHEREAS, she loved games, particularly weekly card games with close friends, and was an avid New Orleans Saints fan; and

WHEREAS, she was preceded in death by her parents, William and Myrtle Drachenberg; sister, Mrs. Inez Lilly; and brother, Billy Drachenberg; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Beam is survived by her husband; daughter, Jamie Fierro (husband Joe); son, Bryan C. Beam (wife, the former Edith Pavy); granddaughter, Jessica Meek Walker (husband, Adam); grandson, Andrew James Beam; and great-granddaughter, Aurora Walker; and

WHEREAS, with the death of Mrs. Beam, Louisiana has lost one of her finest citizens; she leaves behind a rich and unique legacy and will be greatly missed; and

WHEREAS, although the death of Jo Ann Drachenberg Beam has left a tremendous void in her community, her memory shall live forever in the minds and hearts of all who knew and loved her.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere condolences upon the death of Jo Ann Drachenberg Beam, does hereby recognize and record for posterity her outstanding accomplishments and singular contributions, and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the pride and honor that this wonderful woman will forever bring to her family, friends, church, community, McNeese State University, and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to her husband, Jim Beam.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES