HLS 201ES-560 ORIGINAL

A RESOLUTION

2020 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 65

1

BY REPRESENTATIVE GARY CARTER

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences on the death of Blaine S. Kern

2	To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Blaine S.
3	Kern.
4	WHEREAS, the members of the House of Representatives were saddened to learn
5	of the death on June 25, 2020, of Blaine S. Kern, at the age of ninety-three; and
6	WHEREAS, Blaine Kern was born in Algiers on May 17, 1927; in 1932, as an
7	apprentice to his father, Roy, Blaine painted his first Mardi Gras float; in the second decade
8	of his life, Blaine helped Roy paint signs; he also worked on tugboats and shrimp boats; and
9	WHEREAS, Blaine Kern answered the call of duty to his country at the age of
10	eighteen and served a year in the military in Korea; upon his return, Blaine painted a mural
11	in a hospital, and Dr. Henry LaRocca, captain of the Krewe of Alla, contracted Blaine to
12	design, build, and paint floats for the krewe; that was the start of Blaine's fame as a Mardi
13	Gras float maker and the founding of his business, Blaine Kern Artists; and
14	WHEREAS, Blaine traveled to France, Spain, and Italy to hone his craft by studying
15	with the world's leading float and costume makers; he was inspired by the European style
16	of float making but was endowed with significant creative gifts of his own; Blaine Kern
17	invented the double deck float, multiple unit floats, and animated floats; and
18	WHEREAS, in 1984, Blaine created and opened Mardi Gras World as a tourist
19	attraction; the attraction annually draws more than one hundred fifty thousand visitors from
20	around the world and has created thousands of jobs in the city of New Orleans; his creations
21	for the 1984 World's Fair included its entrance, the Wonderwall, and the gondola; and

1 WHEREAS, the evolution of New Orleans' Mardi Gras is attributed to Blaine Kern, 2 and his contributions to the event have been acknowledged by the state of Louisiana and the 3 city of New Orleans; Blaine Kern was known as "Mr. Mardi Gras", and his legacy will be 4 celebrated in New Orleans at Mardi Gras parades for years to come. 5 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the 6 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express deepest sympathies to the family and friends 7 of Blaine S. Kern upon his death; does hereby recognize his extraordinary artistic talent and 8 creative influence upon the New Orleans Mardi Gras scene and upon Mardi Gras parades 9 around the world; and does hereby offer hopes for comfort and peace to those who mourn. 10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 11 family of Blaine S. Kern.

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 65 Original

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Gary Carter

Expresses condolences on the death of Blaine S. Kern, New Orleans' "Mr. Mardi Gras".