

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 7

BY SENATOR FOIL

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Roby Bearden Jr.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Roby Bearden Jr.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing of a great gentleman and family patriarch, Roby Bearden Jr., on May 9, 2020, at the age of eighty-five years; and

WHEREAS, Roby Bearden Jr. was a native of Little Rock, Arkansas, born to Roby and Ruby Bearden, and a resident of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for many years; and

WHEREAS, he earned a PhD in organic chemistry from Louisiana State University and was a lifetime employee of Exxon as a research chemist; and

WHEREAS, Roby Bearden Jr. made major contributions to the scientific community, and was awarded multiple patents over a period of more than twenty years, including patents for systems and methods for slurry hydroconversion of heavy oil feed and a process for the thermal conversion of the organic component associated with tar sands to lower boiling, higher value products; and

WHEREAS, he was active in the community and worked tirelessly for the benefit of others, and gave selflessly to numerous charities; and

WHEREAS, Roby Bearden Jr. was devoted to Baton Rouge Green, an organization

1 formed in 1987 to help restore the urban canopy of Baton Rouge, and which over the past
2 thirty years has been ever-present in the capital region, maintaining thousands of trees along
3 major roadways and interstates, planting trees with school children, helping underserved
4 neighborhoods with community greening, and cultivating urban orchards to provide citrus
5 to all citizens; and

6 WHEREAS, he was an avid gardener and fisherman, loved the beach, and was
7 devoted to his family, friends, and career; and

8 WHEREAS, Roby Bearden Jr. was an extraordinary husband, father, grandfather,
9 and friend, who is survived by his loving wife of sixty years, Barbara Sperry Bearden, and
10 by his devoted children, Elizabeth Bearden Whitley, John Sperry Bearden, and Mary
11 Bearden Stabler, and grandchildren Rachel Fair Whitley, John Beal Whitley III, Robert
12 Bearden Whitley, Caroline Elizabeth Whitley, Charles Roby Bearden, Lura Elizabeth
13 Stabler, and Warren Seth Stabler; and

14 WHEREAS, the memory of Roby Bearden Jr. will always remain in the hearts of his
15 family and friends, who will forever reap the benefits of his legacy; and

16 WHEREAS, those who knew and loved him will continue to swell with pride when
17 they remember Roby Bearden Jr. as a positive force in his community and a fighter on behalf
18 of his fellow citizens; and

19 WHEREAS, Roby Bearden Jr. represented all that is good about Louisiana as a man
20 with unique gifts and a charitable spirit, who shared his abilities with his community, state,
21 nation, and world; and

22 WHEREAS, with his passing Louisiana has lost one of its finest citizens, who left
23 an indelible mark on the lives of the many individuals whom he touched with his truly
24 inspiring leadership and generosity, and who is now terribly missed but will never be
25 forgotten.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
27 does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Roby Bearden Jr.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does
29 hereby recognize and record for posterity the monumental and historic accomplishments of
30 Roby Bearden Jr., and does hereby extend appreciation for his enduring contributions that

1 will long continue to be a source of deep honor for the city of Baton Rouge and the state of
2 Louisiana, and does hereby pay tribute to the remarkable legacy of Roby Bearden Jr., which
3 shall live long in the hearts of those who were touched by his intellect and humanity.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
5 family of Roby Bearden Jr.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alden A. Clement Jr.

	DIGEST	
SR 7 Original	2020 Second Extraordinary Session	Foil
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