

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 5

BY SENATORS BERNARD, ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BARROW, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, CORTEZ, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HARRIS, HENRY, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, JOHNS, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, MORRIS, PEACOCK, PETERSON, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, TALBOT, TARVER, WARD, WHITE AND WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the tragic deaths of Pauline and Philip Ackel of Natchitoches, Louisiana, an inseparable couple who died together in a plane crash with their good friends, Missy and Kenneth Hix of Lafayette, Louisiana, near Hilltop Lakes, Texas, on September 20, 2020, a devastating loss for families, friends, and the communities of both couples.

WHEREAS, Pauline Soileau Ackel was born August 6, 1960, in Opelousas, Louisiana, to Rayburn and Barbara Robin Soileau, and she graduated from Amy Bradford Ware High School in Opelousas; and

WHEREAS, following her graduation from high school, Pauline Soileau enrolled in Northwestern State University (NSU) in Natchitoches where she earned a bachelor of science degree in nursing, was a member of Tri-Sigma social sorority, and was selected as a member of the NSU homecoming court; and

WHEREAS, having earned her degree at NSU, Pauline went on to Texas Wesleyan University in Dallas, Texas, to train as a nurse anesthetist, earning a masters degree in health science, and a certificate as a certified registered nurse anesthetist; and

WHEREAS, Pauline Soileau returned to Louisiana, married the love of her life and her college love, Philip Ackel and the pair settled into the next chapter of their lives in Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS, while raising their family, Pauline Ackel served as a registered nurse for the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts in Natchitoches and for twenty

years she practiced as a certified registered nurse anesthetist at Rapides General Hospital in Alexandria, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Philip Ackel was born on July 11, 1961, in Alexandria, Louisiana, to John Latief and Melba Masson Ackel, he was raised in Natchitoches and graduated from St. Mary's High School in the class of 1979; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ackel graduated from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, where he was a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity, earning a bachelor of science degree in business, then joining his parents in the family business, Ackel Brothers Store; and

WHEREAS, Philip Ackel was active in the Jaycees in Natchitoches and remained working at Ackel Brothers until 1994 when he began a twenty-five year career with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, a job he held at the time of his death; and

WHEREAS, Philip Ackel continued a legacy begun by his father and his uncle as a member of a local men's group known as The Agitators; and

WHEREAS, Pauline and Philip Ackel raised and adored their two children, daughter Ashli, and son, Abraham Philip, and despite their busy work and civic lives, their faith and family were always their top priority and the center of their lives; and

WHEREAS, the Ackels were famous for their hospitality, perhaps learned from Philip's parents whose home was always open to all during the Natchitoches Christmas Festival, an annual affair; and

WHEREAS, Philip Ackel's rich Lebanese heritage was a source of great pride and inspired much of his cooking, but love for friends and family underlay the hospitality offered in their home where Pauline was the perfect hostess to all; and

WHEREAS, Pauline and Philip were active in both the Mystic Krewe of St. Denis and the Mystick Krewe of Louisianians who hold their annual ball and festivities in Washington, D.C., showcasing the best of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Pauline and Philip Ackel lived a life together of devout faith and commitment to their church and religion and the aspect of their lives together as Catholics was the foundation of their life together and their untiring efforts on behalf of St. Mary's School were a labor of love for both of them and was a strong aspect of their life as a couple.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express the sincere condolences upon the tragic deaths of Pauline and Philip Ackel of Natchitoches, Louisiana, an inseparable couple who died together in a plane crash near Hilltop Lakes, Texas, on September 20, 2020, a devastating loss for family, friends, and the community of Natchitoches, Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Ashli Ackel Plemmons and Abraham Philip Ackel.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE