

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

BY SENATOR FOIL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of
Francis "Frank" Harwood Leonard Sr.

WHEREAS, Frank Leonard was born to Harold Colegrove Leonard and Mary Addington Leonard in El Paso, Texas, on January 8, 1931, and died peacefully in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on September 21, 2020; and

WHEREAS, soon after his birth, Frank moved with his family to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and as a child he made cherished memories being the mayor of Mrs. Laura Callihan's kindergarten class, becoming a Dufrocq Duck through his attendance at Dufrocq Elementary School, and he enjoyed attending Louisiana State University's Laboratory School, as it was then known; and

WHEREAS, Frank also served as a Junior air warden and became involved with growing a plentiful Victory Garden, grown as a way to forestall any food shortages during World War II and an outward sign of patriotic support for the troops and the war effort; and

WHEREAS, during his idyllic childhood in Baton Rouge, Mr. Leonard also raised chickens and owned a reputedly handsome rooster by the name of General McArthur, after the famous general; and

WHEREAS, the area of Capital Heights where Frank Leonard and his childhood buddies played was known as Hutsut Town, where several fathers, including his own, built a suspension bridge, and Frank was elected the president of the little band of children; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Baton Rouge High, Frank Leonard served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, upon an honorable discharge in August 1952, Mr. Leonard began

studies at LSU and graduated with a bachelor's degree in agriculture; and

WHEREAS, in 1957, Mr. Leonard established the Leonard Agency, an independent insurance agency which he owned for over thirty years; and

WHEREAS, Frank Leonard also established the Leonard Construction Company, a residential and light commercial and subdivision development company; and

WHEREAS, during this time of post-war and mid-century growth, Frank Leonard served with distinction on the executive board of the Capital Region Builders Association (CRBA), an indication of how highly regarded he was among his peers; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Mr. Leonard established Leonard Builders, which built hundreds of new residences in the Baton Rouge area during its twenty years of building; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Builders was chosen in 2000 to build a new office building for the association, a proud moment for Frank Leonard; and

WHEREAS, Frank Leonard assisted in implementing CRBA's transition to becoming independently insured by forming their own general liability and workers' compensation companies, an effort that Frank found most rewarding; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Leonard was a very successful businessman, but his life had many facets beyond his work life, especially his commitment to his family: his beloved wife, Bahin Hootsell Leonard, with whom he shared fifty-eight years of marriage, and the two sons they raised, Francis Harwood Leonard Jr. and John Hootsell Leonard; and

WHEREAS, beyond devotion to his family and enjoying involvement in the lives of his sons and their families, including four grandchildren, he also cherished his numerous nieces and nephews and extended family; Frank Leonard was also a very dedicated and active member of St. James Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Leonard's participation at St. James included serving as an acolyte as a youngster and later in adult roles of lay reader, member of the associate vestry and the vestry, and the special gift of raising his voice in loving praise, singing in St. James' choir until last year; and

WHEREAS, Frank Leonard was active in the Angola Prison Ministry and he loved singing with the prisoners and sharing the joyous message of Christ's love with the particularly hungry souls at Angola; and

WHEREAS, having lived a long life committed to work, family, faith, and his community, Frank Harwood Leonard certainly left Baton Rouge a better place than he found it and wonderful memories of him will be cherished by his dear wife, his family, his church, and his community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its sincere condolences upon the death of Francis Harwood Leonard Sr. of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Bahin Hootsell Leonard and her family.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES