

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 7

BY SENATOR FOIL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize and record for posterity the monumental and historic accomplishments of Roby Bearden Jr., and does hereby extend appreciation for his enduring contributions that will long continue to be a source of deep honor for the city of Baton Rouge and the state of Louisiana, and does hereby pay tribute to the remarkable legacy of Roby Bearden Jr., which shall live long in the hearts of those who were touched by his intellect and humanity.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE