

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 13

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To express sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Louis Woodson, an outstanding businessman and entrepreneur from Lafayette, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Louis Woodson was born to George Woodson and Simonia Carriere Woodson in Leonville, Louisiana, on October 28, 1923, and died a quiet death at his home in Lafayette on September 26, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Louis Woodson lived most of his life in Lafayette and considered that his hometown; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woodson was educated in Lafayette and when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, beginning the United States engagement in World War II, he was an engineering student at Southwestern Louisiana Institute (SLI), now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette; and

WHEREAS, Louis Woodson enlisted in the United States Navy in 1944 and was proud to serve as a radar technician aboard the heavy cruiser, USS Wichita and saw action in the Battle for Okinawa which took place from the first of April 1945, until victory on July 2, 1945; and

WHEREAS, from Okinawa and following the detonation of the second atomic bomb over Nagasaki, Japan, the USS Wichita led the United States task group into Nagasaki Bay with the stated objective of freeing allied prisoners of war; and

WHEREAS, after the end of the war, Louis Woodson was honorably discharged and he returned to Louisiana to marry his sweetheart, Georgia Zeringue, and resume his engineering studies at SLI; and

WHEREAS, in 1947 Mr. Woodson graduated from college with a degree in mechanical engineering and began his long and successful career in the burgeoning oil and gas industry booming in south Louisiana in the post-war years; and

WHEREAS, Louis Woodson had an entrepreneurial spirit and in 1965, he founded the Woodson Companies, specializing in inland waterway, marsh, and swamp pipeline construction, uniquely necessary in south Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Woodson Companies was instrumental in the installation of vital pipelines throughout the Gulf Coast region, including those at several United States Strategic Petroleum Reserves facilities, stockpiles of crude oil owned by the federal government to provide a backup supply if the oil supply were to be significantly disrupted; and

WHEREAS, in addition to becoming a successful business leader, Mr. Woodson was active in civic endeavors in the community of Lafayette, serving on numerous boards and committees, freely sharing his business expertise and acumen; and

WHEREAS, Louis and Georgia Woodson were devout Catholics and their faith was an important component of who they were, how they lived their lives, and how they raised their three beloved daughters; and

WHEREAS, Louis Woodson is survived by his loving family: Linda Woodson Doherty and her husband, Mike Doherty; Cheryl Woodson Hendry and her husband, Dr. John Hendry; Paula Woodson Blanchet and her husband, Judge David Blanchet; granddaughter, Michelle Woodson; and step-grandson, George Jason Doherty; and

WHEREAS, faith and family were the foundation on which Louis and Georgia Woodson built their lives, loving their children and delighting in their extended family, and treasuring the friendships they made during their lives, and Louis' positive contributions to his community stand as a testament to the values of commitment to faith, family, country, and community which he lived every day of his life.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere condolences upon the death of Louis Woodson, an outstanding businessman and entrepreneur in Lafayette, Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Linda Woodson Doherty, Cheryl Woodson Hendry, and Paula Woodson Blanchet.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE