

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 8

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

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of former Louisiana State Senator, Willie Eugene Crain Sr., to acknowledge his lifelong commitment to public service, and to note his many contributions made on behalf of the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it is with great sorrow of spirits and sadness of hearts that the members of the Louisiana Senate learned of the passing of former Louisiana State Senator Willie Eugene Crain Sr., at the age of seventy-nine, on February 12, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the middle child of twelve children, Willie Crain was born on November 7, 1942, to his loving parents, Edward, a farmer and Baptist preacher, and Gussie Lee Crain; and

WHEREAS, he was a born leader and his achievements began at a young age; he was the Captain of the Oak Grove Fighting Tigers football team, an All-District Linebacker, and was named Mr. Oak Grove High School; and

WHEREAS, in addition to high school extracurricular activities, Willie Crain worked for KWCL Radio Station in Oak Grove as a disc jockey, where he met the love of his life, Dorothy Fuller; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Oak Grove High School, Willie Crain married Dorothy Fuller, enlisted in the United States Air Force, and moved across the globe to his duty station in Pakistan to serve as a sergeant in the intelligence division; and

WHEREAS, while serving his country, he pursued higher education at Centenary College, Louisiana Tech University, and Northeast Louisiana University, now known as the University of Louisiana at Monroe; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy and Willie Crain eventually settled in Monroe, Louisiana, where their five children were raised and he began his career in the automobile business, first

opening his own leasing company and then his own dealership, Crain Chevrolet-Olds-Pontiac, in Rayville, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Willie Crain was an active member of his community and served tirelessly for the benefit of others; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of the Scottish Rite and the Bayou Desiard Optimist Club where he served as president; he was a longtime, faithful member of Lakeshore Baptist Church where he taught Sunday School to the youth for many years; he also coached many of his children's sports teams and proudly served as the NLU, now ULM, Athletic Booster Club President and was a very colorful commentator for the football radio broadcast; and

WHEREAS, from his humble beginnings and throughout his life, Willie Crain's drive to succeed was guided by his servant's heart; and

WHEREAS, his political career began when he was elected as a police juror for Ouachita Parish, where he served as jury president, and during his tenure on the police jury, he was responsible for creating the East Ouachita Recreation District and countless other advancements for Ouachita Parish; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Willie Crain became the Louisiana State Senator for District 33; he was a visionary and it was his thoughtfulness, intelligence, and charisma that helped him successfully navigate the legislative process like no other at the time; and

WHEREAS, he served on several committees during his first term and as a freshman senator was selected to be the chairman of the Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs; and

WHEREAS, Willie Crain was instrumental in enacting legislation that secured funding for countless projects across the state, including the ULM Library, Forsythe Extension, the Monroe-West Monroe Convention & Visitors Bureau, and the Louisiana Cotton Museum; and

WHEREAS, his influence while serving in the Senate was tremendous and he cherished the honor of being selected "Legislator of the Year" on many occasions; and

WHEREAS, to put it simply, Willie Crain did a lot of good for a lot of people and his positive impact on Louisiana, especially in Senate District 33, will be felt for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, when his time in the Louisiana Senate came to an end, Willie Crain founded Louisiana Consulting and Planning and worked diligently as a consultant to obtain funding for municipalities and rural areas of Northeast Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Willie Crain leaves behind an incredible legacy of a successful businessman and devoted public servant, but his greatest legacy of all is his family to whom he taught the importance of kindness, compassion, leadership, service, hard work, family, and faith; and

WHEREAS, Willie Eugene Crain Sr. was preceded in death by his wife of fifty-two years, Dorothy Fuller Crain; daughter, Traci Crain Cleveland; parents, Edward and Gussie Lee Crain; brothers, Mack Crain and Frank Crain; sisters, Janett Wingo, and Linda Finley; father- and mother-in-law, R.E. and Claudine Prine Fuller; brothers- and sister-in-law, Billy Fuller, Clyde Fuller, and Jeanette Fuller Hale; and

WHEREAS, left to cherish his memory are his sons, Gene Crain and wife, Missy, and Scott Crain and wife, Mandy; daughters, Tammy Crain Waldrop and Tana Higdon and husband, Creg; son-in-law, David Cleveland; thirteen grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Willie Crain was a loving father to Tammy Crain Waldrop, our friend and Senate Researcher and special condolences are extended to Tammy and her family; and

WHEREAS, Willie Eugene Crain Sr. was larger than life and leaves behind a tremendous legacy as a devoted family man, businessman, and public servant and he will be forever missed by all those who knew and loved him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deepest and most profound condolences to the family of Willie Eugene Crain Sr., acknowledge his lifelong commitment to public service, and note his many contributions made on behalf of the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Willie E. Crain Sr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE