

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 9

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences on the death of former Louisiana State Senator Willie E. Crain, Sr.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of former
3 Louisiana State Senator Willie E. Crain, Sr.

4 WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of
5 Representatives has learned of the death, on February 12, 2022, of former Louisiana State
6 Senator Willie Eugene Crain, Sr.; and

7 WHEREAS, Willie was born on November 7, 1942, as one of twelve children born
8 to Edward Crain, a farmer and Baptist preacher, and Gussie Lee Crain; and

9 WHEREAS, Willie was a born leader; he was an All-District linebacker and captain
10 of the Oak Grove Fighting Tigers football team and was chosen by his peers as "Mr. Oak
11 Grove High School"; in addition to his extracurricular involvement in high school, he also
12 worked as a disc jockey for KWCL radio station, which is where he met the love of his life,
13 Dorothy Fuller; and

14 WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, Willie married Dorothy; soon after,
15 he enlisted in the United States Air Force and moved across the globe to serve at his
16 assigned post in Pakistan; he served as a sergeant in the USAF intelligence division; and

17 WHEREAS, while serving his country, Willie also pursued higher education by
18 taking courses at Centenary College, Louisiana Tech University, and Northeast Louisiana
19 University; and

20 WHEREAS, Willie and Dorothy eventually settled in Monroe, Louisiana, where they
21 raised a family of five children and Willie began his career in the automobile business; he

1 started by opening a leasing company then expanded by buying his own dealership, Crain
2 Chevrolet-Olds-Pontiac, in Rayville, Louisiana; and

3 WHEREAS, Willie was a genuinely civic-minded individual who contributed to his
4 community throughout his life; he was a member of the Scottish Rite and served as president
5 of the Bayou Desiard Optimist Club; he was a devoted, longtime member of Lakeshore
6 Baptist Church where he taught Sunday School for many years; he also coached several
7 youth sports teams, proudly served as the University of Louisiana at Monroe Athletic
8 Booster Club President, and served as a commentator for football games on the radio; and

9 WHEREAS, a true product of humble beginnings, Willie found his passion and drive
10 through service to others, and his commitment to the community led him to seek public
11 office; his political career began as a police juror in Ouachita Parish; during his tenure, he
12 served as police jury president and was responsible for creating the East Ouachita Recreation
13 District and countless other advancements in the parish; and

14 WHEREAS, Willie's political career advanced rapidly, and in 1988 he was elected
15 to serve as the Louisiana State Senator for District 33; as a state senator, he was a visionary
16 who employed a thoughtful, intelligent, and charismatic approach to successfully navigate
17 the legislative process; he served on several committees during his first term and was
18 selected to chair the Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs; and

19 WHEREAS, Senator Crain played an instrumental role in passing numerous pieces
20 of legislation that secured funding for countless projects across the state, including the
21 University of Louisiana at Monroe Library, the Forsythe Extension, and many others; his
22 work was not without recognition, as he was selected by his peers as "Legislator of the Year"
23 on numerous occasions; and

24 WHEREAS, after completing his service as senator, former Senator Crain founded
25 Louisiana Consulting and Planning, where he worked diligently to obtain funding for
26 municipalities and rural areas in Northeast Louisiana; and

27 WHEREAS, Willie Eugene Crain, Sr., leaves to cherish his memory his sons, Gene
28 Crain, and his wife Missy, and Scott Crain, and his wife Mandy; daughters, Tammy Crain
29 Waldrop and Tana Higdon, and her husband Creg; son-in-law, David Cleveland; thirteen

1 grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, extended family
2 members, and friends; and

3 WHEREAS, former Senator Willie E. Crain, Sr., was a truly beautiful soul who
4 cared for nothing more than his community; he will be deeply missed, but the legacy of his
5 impact will live on forever.

6 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
7 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of former
8 Louisiana State Senator Willie E. Crain, Sr.; does hereby recognize his lifelong commitment
9 to public service and his unrelenting dedication to the people of Northeast Louisiana; and
10 does hereby extend sincere wishes that his family, friends, and loved ones find some sense
11 of comfort in their memories of him during this extremely difficult time.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
13 family of Willie Eugean Crain, Sr.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 9 Original

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