

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 73

BY SENATOR FRED MILLS

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Wade Joseph Broussard Jr.

WHEREAS, Wade Joseph Broussard Jr., was born on September 13, 1939, in New Iberia, Louisiana, and was one of eight children to the late Wade J. Broussard Sr. and the late Anna Mae Savoy Broussard; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Broussard graduated from New Iberia Senior High School and attended the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, which was known then as Southwestern Louisiana Institute; and

WHEREAS, he was a devoted and loving husband for fifty-two years, a father, grandfather, brother, and revered deacon of the Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wade started his career as an associate at Iberia Tractor and Supply, then opened his own business, Wade's Magnavox Sales and Services, which he managed from 1960 to 1985; thereafter he worked in sales with various satellite and wireless phone companies in the Acadiana area; and

WHEREAS, he later found a sales position uniquely suited to him, selling various types of insurance such as universal life, cancer, critical illness, long-term care, and comprehensive disability for American General Life Insurance and Catholic Knights of America; and

WHEREAS, as an acolyte for Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, he served under the guidance of Father Wayne Richard and Father Leo Schexnayder, who inspired him to pursue his goal of becoming a deacon; and

WHEREAS, during reconstruction of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, he served as an acolyte at the temporary location of the church, which was the New Iberia Movie Theater; after each Mass, he operated movie projectors and theater lighting, allowing him to hone his craft in electronics, and ultimately led him to build the first operational crystal radio; and

WHEREAS, after marrying Carol Ann Berges on November 5, 1966, Mr. Broussard joined St. Peter's Catholic Church to further emboss his legacy of faith; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, he entered the Permanent Diaconate Program with the Catholic Diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana, embarking on a five-year journey that culminated in his ordination at St. John's Cathedral in the same diocese on February 12, 2000; and

WHEREAS, following his ordination, Deacon Broussard dedicated more than twenty-five years of supplementaries to church parishioners, while serving as primary counselor for the Holy Family Cemetery, offering beneficent support to grieving families in Iberia Parish and neighboring areas; and

WHEREAS, after being appointed manager of the Holy Family Cemetery in 1998, Deacon Broussard enhanced his knowledge of consecrated cemetery ground operations and trauma counseling, by joining the National Catholic Cemetery Conference; and

WHEREAS, Deacon Broussard augmented his academic qualifications with completed studies in cemetery management and theology from the University of Notre Dame, and in furtherance of his curriculum vitae, he graduated in 2006 from John Carroll University, a Jesuit institution in Cleveland, Ohio, conferring degrees in land management, mental health counseling, and the psychology of death and dying; and

WHEREAS, after his appointment by Bishop Michael Jarrell with the Diocese of Lafayette in 2010, Deacon Wade served on the newly established Diocesan Cemetery Advisory Board, where he was instrumental in writing a homiletic handbook for Catholic cemeteries and was subsequently chosen as a 2011 delegate to the Catholic Cemetery Conference, earning the designation of Catholic Cemetery Executive; and

WHEREAS, Deacon Wade was the retreat captain for more than twenty-seven years at Our Lady of Oaks Retreat House in Grand Coteau, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Broussard was a lifelong member of the Knights of Columbus, served in the Louisiana Army National Guard, and was an amazing cook for his family, friends, and the downtrodden; and

WHEREAS, when asked about his favorite accomplishments as deacon, he would often speak of the truest blessing in baptizing nine of his eleven grandchildren, presiding over the marriages of his son Greg to his wife Jennifer and his oldest granddaughter Hannah

to her husband Tyler, as well as remaining resolute in following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ by helping the oppressed, consoling the sorrowful, strengthening the weak, and revealing the power of the cross to believers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus by giving countless volunteer hours to The Community of Jesus Crucified in St. Martinville, Louisiana, and the Sisters of the Sacred Heart; and

WHEREAS, until the day he entered into eternal peace and rest on April 3, 2023, Deacon Wade shared his love of faith, family, and fellowship in parallel with untold comfort he rendered to those who grieved and the beleaguered; and

WHEREAS, left to cherish the untold memories of Deacon Wade J. Broussard Jr. are his children, Glenn Broussard and wife Jill, Monica B. Shoemaker and husband Aaron, and Greg Broussard and wife Jennifer; his grandchildren whom he adored, Hannah B. Primeaux, Victoria Broussard, Zachary Broussard, Kolby Broussard, Grace Shoemaker, Alex Shoemaker, Lauren Broussard, Madelynne Broussard, and Ella Broussard; his sister and brothers, Gloria Broussard, Allen Broussard, Warren Broussard, and Willien Broussard, and a host of nieces, nephews, friends, and communities he served by powerfully living out his faith.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend full-hearted and fervent condolences to the family of Deacon Wade Joseph Broussard Jr. on the occasion of his death and does further acknowledge his substantive contributions of faith in the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Wade Joseph Broussard Jr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE