

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Robert "Bob"

3 Winfred Merrick and to honor his life, legacy, and contributions to Louisiana.

4 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that the members of the Legislature of

5 Louisiana have learned of the passing of Robert "Bob" Winfred Merrick on April 28, 2025,

6 at the age of eighty; and

7 WHEREAS, Robert Merrick was born in August 1944 in New Orleans; he attended

8 Sam Barthe Elementary School, St. Martin's Episcopal High School, and Tulane University,

9 and in each of these stages of life he formed lasting friendships; and

10 WHEREAS, Bob was a beloved civic leader, keen fly fisherman, husband, father,

11 stepfather, grandfather, and great-grandfather; he embodied the culture and grit of his New

12 Orleans hometown with his zest for life and unwavering commitment to Louisiana; and

13 WHEREAS, pursuing his commitment to making New Orleans a better place, Bob

14 dedicated countless hours and significant resources to philanthropic endeavors, including

15 generous donations to the Red Cross, University of New Orleans, Ochsner Health System,

16 MD Anderson Cancer Center, the Boy Scouts of Southeast Louisiana, Son of a Saint, Ruth

17 Fertel Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, Fore Kids Foundation, Junior Achievement of

18 Greater New Orleans, United Way of Southeast Louisiana, the National WWII Museum,

19 March of Dimes, Isidore Newman School, and St. Martin's Episcopal School; and

20 WHEREAS, Robert Merrick was the first person in the Louisiana to give over

21 \$1 million to both United Way of Southeast Louisiana and the Red Cross; and

1 WHEREAS, in recognition of his lifetime of generosity, Bob was honored with The
2 National Red Cross Humanitarian of the Year Award, The University of New Orleans
3 Chancellor's Medallion for Distinguished Service, The New Orleans Council for Community
4 & Justice's Weiss Award, Mobil Oil Company's "Strategic Partner of the Year," Gambit's
5 New Orleanian of the Year, The Alexis de Tocqueville Lifetime Achievement Award from
6 United Way, and the prestigious Times-Picayune Loving Cup; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1986, Bob purchased Latter & Blum, Inc./Realtors, one of the largest
8 and oldest full service real estate companies in Louisiana; and

9 WHEREAS, in October 1988, Bob served as a member of the Real Estate Appraisal
10 Subcommittee of the Louisiana Real Estate Commission; and

11 WHEREAS, Bob acquired numerous real estate brokerage firms including C.J.
12 Brown Realtors in Baton Rouge, Noles Frye Realty in Alexandria, Van Eaton & Romeo in
13 Lafayette, and Realty Associates in Houston, Texas; Bob grew Latter and Blum into one of
14 the largest and most successful full service real estate firms in the Gulf South before selling
15 it to Compass Real Estate; and

16 WHEREAS, throughout his life, Bob formed countless friendships with the
17 employees and agents of what he called his "other family", the Latter and Blum/Compass
18 group; and

19 WHEREAS, Bob had a unique sense of humor and an uncanny ability to connect
20 with people from all walks of life; he enriched the world around him with love, laughter, and
21 generosity; and

22 WHEREAS, an avid lover of the outdoors, Bob found immense joy in stalking wild
23 turkeys, fly fishing in the saltwater flats of Mexico, and appreciating the beauty of nature;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Bob Merrick leaves behind a legacy of philanthropy and leadership and
26 a profound impact on the hearts of those who knew him; and

27 WHEREAS, left to cherish the memory of Bob Merrick are his wife, Sheryl; sisters,
28 Patricia Merrick Brinson and Susan Merrick; daughters, Elizabeth Merrick, Christine
29 Merrick Stewart, Amanda Merrick Seale, and Lacey Merrick Conway; stepson, Justin
30 Duplantis; grandchildren, Taylor Ghery Smith, Laney Ghery Marion, Lillian Andersson,

1 Merrick Andersson, Henry Andersson, Tatem Seale, Alexander Seale, Merrick Seale, Olivia
2 Conway, and Hunter Conway; and stepgrandchildren, Braden Wheat, Timothé Duplantis,
3 and Chloe Duplantis; he will be deeply missed, but the legacy of his love shall live on in
4 perpetuity in the hearts and minds of those who were privileged to have known him.

5 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
6 extend its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Robert "Bob" Winfred Merrick
7 and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that his family, friends, and loved ones find comfort
8 in their shared memories of his beautiful life.

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)]

HCR 62 Original	2025 Regular Session	Freeman
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Expresses the condolences of the legislature on the death of Robert "Bob" Winfred Merrick.