

2026 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 19

BY SENATOR FOIL

CONDOLENCES. Expresses sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Grady R. Hazel on the occasion of his passing.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the
3 death of Grady R. Hazel, CPA, CGMA, and to honor his extraordinary life,
4 leadership, and enduring contributions to the state of Louisiana and the accounting
5 profession.

6 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that the members of the Senate of the
7 Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the passing of Grady R. Hazel, on February 14,
8 2026, at the age of seventy-eight; and

9 WHEREAS, born on November 26, 1947, in Jennings, Louisiana, Grady
10 demonstrated leadership early in life, serving as senior class president at Broadmoor High
11 School before attending Louisiana State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science
12 in Accounting and a Master of Business Administration; and

13 WHEREAS, Grady began his distinguished career with the East Baton Rouge Parish
14 School Board as an assistant auditor and rose through the ranks to serve as Associate
15 Superintendent of Business Affairs, dedicating twenty-three years to public service before
16 assuming the role of executive director of the Society of Louisiana Certified Public
17 Accountants in 1995, a position he held with distinction until 2012; and

18 WHEREAS, as executive director, Grady was a tireless and principled advocate for

1 the CPA profession, working collaboratively with the Louisiana Legislature, the Louisiana
2 Department of Revenue, the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, the Louisiana State Board of
3 Accountancy, and numerous regulatory bodies to safeguard the integrity of the CPA
4 designation and protect the public interest; and

5 WHEREAS, in 1999, he proudly stood alongside Governor Mike Foster while the
6 Louisiana Accountancy Act was signed into law; and

7 WHEREAS, during some of Louisiana's most challenging moments, including the
8 aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Grady's steady and contemplative leadership
9 guided a membership of more than six thousand strong, helping CPAs rebuild their practices
10 so they could, in turn, help businesses, families, and communities recover while
11 demonstrating compassion, resilience, and unwavering resolve; and

12 WHEREAS, Grady was known for his calm demeanor, integrity, humility, and
13 wisdom, and he served as a trusted liaison and friend to legislators, often translating complex
14 tax and regulatory matters so that sound and informed decisions could be made; and

15 WHEREAS, Governor John Bel Edwards appointed Grady to the State Board of
16 Certified Public Accountants of Louisiana to represent parishes in the southeastern region
17 of the state, where he faithfully served until October 2, 2025, including terms as Treasurer
18 and Secretary, embracing with seriousness and honor the responsibility of licensing,
19 regulating, and protecting the CPA profession for the benefit of the public; and

20 WHEREAS, throughout his career, Grady was deeply committed to education and
21 mentorship, instructing hundreds of CPAs, particularly in the area of professional ethics, by
22 instilling in them the values of integrity, accountability, and service that would strengthen
23 the profession for generations to come; and

24 WHEREAS, he concluded his career at The Dunham School in Baton Rouge as chief
25 financial officer, where he continued to lead with quiet strength, serving not only as a
26 financial steward but also as a trusted friend, mentor, and role model to students and
27 colleagues alike; and

28 WHEREAS, beyond his professional accomplishments, Grady cherished time with
29 his family, enjoyed Baton Rouge's rich cuisine, loved reading, and was a devoted supporter
30 of LSU athletics; and

1 WHEREAS, left to cherish his memory are his beloved wife, Cindy; his daughters,
2 Kelly King and Ashley Istre; his treasured grandchildren, Parker, Olivia, Camille, and Jack;
3 and his brother, Jim; though he will be deeply missed, his legacy of leadership, kindness, and
4 humble service will endure in the hearts of all who had the privilege to know him.

5 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
6 does hereby honor the life and lasting contributions of Grady R. Hazel, CPA, CGMA, and
7 extends its heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, and the countless
8 individuals whose lives were enriched by his example of integrity, service, and steadfast
9 leadership.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
11 family of Grady R. Hazel.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services.
The keyword, summary, 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)]

SR 19 Original	DIGEST 2026 Regular Session	Foil
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Expresses sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing
of Grady R. Hazel.