

2026 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 113

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses sincere and heartfelt condolences on the passing of Martha Elizabeth Odom.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of  
3 Louisiana upon the passing of Martha Elizabeth Odom.

4 WHEREAS, it is with sincere regret and immense sorrow that members of the Senate  
5 of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the passing of Martha Elizabeth Odom, on  
6 April 23, 2026, at the age of seventeen; and

7 WHEREAS, Martha was welcomed into this world on May 23, 2008, in Biloxi,  
8 Mississippi, to her loving parents, Michael and Brooke Bingham Odom, and later made her  
9 home in Lafayette, Louisiana, where she flourished into a multitalented, compassionate,  
10 intelligent, inspiring, and remarkable young woman; and

11 WHEREAS, Martha was thoughtful, intentional, and lived each and every moment  
12 with purpose; and

13 WHEREAS, she studied and trained in classical ballet her entire life, maturing into  
14 a talented and beautiful ballerina, and shared her talents on stage in ten performances of the  
15 Lafayette Ballet Theatre's production of *The Nutcracker*; and

16 WHEREAS, the Ballet Studio was a formative place where she found joy, strength,  
17 and peace, and through her dance training, she developed a love for teaching young dancers  
18 and gained the discipline and inner confidence to explore and embrace other art forms; and

1           WHEREAS, throughout her high school career at Ascension Episcopal School,  
2 Martha pursued theater, writing, and music with the same steadfast dedication she applied  
3 to all her endeavors, appearing in five school musicals and three plays, earning recognition  
4 in the Writes of Spring Regional Writing Contest for her undeniable gift as a storyteller, and  
5 receiving multiple short fiction awards for three consecutive years; and

6           WHEREAS, in addition to her artistic accomplishments, Martha was a standout  
7 softball player, playing on the junior varsity and varsity teams and earning freshman all-  
8 district honorable mention; she was a leader on the varsity soccer team for four years, being  
9 voted the happiest team player and team captain during her senior season; and during her  
10 senior year she was selected for the varsity tennis team; and

11           WHEREAS, to further broaden her horizons, Martha was an active member in  
12 several school clubs including the Creative Writing Club, Robotics Club, Beta Club, Mu  
13 Alpha Theta, National English Honor Society, and Rho Kappa National Social Studies  
14 Honor Society; and

15           WHEREAS, through her experiences, Martha emerged into a strong, thoughtful,  
16 natural leader; she was selected to attend Louisiana Girls State and she served as Editor-in-  
17 Chief of *The Authored Ascension*, her school's paper, as an Ascension Ambassador, and as  
18 the communications officer for Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society; and

19           WHEREAS, Martha's presence and abilities were noticed by many with school  
20 counselors recounting how "Martha is undaunted by challenges, and even with her quiet  
21 nature, she does not shy away from approaching a microphone, stepping into the spotlight,  
22 or speaking her mind"; and

23           WHEREAS, in her free time, Martha could often be found curled up with a book and  
24 a matcha beverage, or playing cards and board games with friends; she cherished car rides  
25 with her sister, listening to their favorite songs on the way to school, and she was honored  
26 to be presented at the Krewe of Gabriel 2025 Fall Ball, where she was escorted by and  
27 danced the night away with her father; and

28           WHEREAS, upon graduation, Martha was accepted to attend the University of the  
29 South in Sewanee, Tennessee, as a member of the class of 2030, where she planned to major  
30 in English and Creative Writing and Rhetoric, and minor in Dance; and

1           WHEREAS, Martha was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents, Dr. James  
2 C. and Martha Tolley Davis Odom and her uncle, James Calhoun "Cal" Odom, Jr.; and

3           WHEREAS, Martha leaves behind family and friends who will cherish her memory,  
4 including her parents; her sister, Margaret Odom; maternal grandparents, Kenneth and Joan  
5 Bingham; godmother, Allison Clarke; her aunts and uncles, Brent and Gina Bingham,  
6 Suzanne Odom, Cade and Dave Cheshire, Catherine and Tom Pankey; and a host of cousins  
7 who loved and adored her; and

8           WHEREAS, Martha Elizabeth Odom was a light to everyone around her and  
9 recognized and nurtured that same light in others; she carried herself with quiet strength and  
10 grace and will be remembered by all those who knew her for her unwavering compassion,  
11 wit, wisdom, sense of humor, and her breathtaking smile.

12           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
13 does hereby honor the life of Martha Elizabeth Odom and her numerous accomplishments  
14 during her short life and does hereby express the sincere and heartfelt condolences to the  
15 family of Martha Elizabeth Odom.

16           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
17 Martha's parents, Michael and Brooke Bingham Odom.

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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)]

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DIGEST

SR 113 Original                      2026 Regular Session                      Boudreaux

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