

2026 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 129

BY SENATOR EDMONDS

CONDOLENCES. Expresses sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Kathleen "Kathy" Sessums on the occasion of her passing.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
3 to the family and friends of Kathleen "Kathy" Sessums upon the occasion of her  
4 passing.

5 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow and deep regret that the citizens of Louisiana  
6 have learned of the passing of Kathleen "Kathy" Sessums, at the age of sixty-eight, after a  
7 long and courageous battle with cancer on April 22, 2026; and

8 WHEREAS, Kathy was born on August 4, 1957, and raised in Shreveport, Louisiana;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, at thirteen she met the love of her life, John Thomas Sessums, whom  
11 she married in 1974, and soon after they welcome twin boys beginning a life centered on  
12 love, family, and unwavering devotion; and

13 WHEREAS, during Kathy's forty-six year tenure in public service in a clerical  
14 position, her supervisors recognized her potential and encouraged her to pursue college  
15 credits required to qualify for jobs in the accounting field; and

16 WHEREAS, upon earning the necessary education, she became an agency accountant  
17 for the Department of Health and Human Resources, now known as the Louisiana  
18 Department of Health (LDH), and quickly advanced to various managerial positions across

1 the state, undertaking a multitude of tasks, responsibilities, and challenges; and

2 WHEREAS, Kathy lead a milestone project to build the state's first cost allocation  
3 system at LDH, a system critical in establishing the foundation for the modern cost  
4 allocation systems used statewide, thus enabling the state to orchestrate funding resources  
5 in a way that continues to benefit all residents; and

6 WHEREAS, Kathy's experience, analytical brilliance, and near-photographic  
7 memory ultimately led to her becoming the director of Louisiana's Enterprise Resource  
8 Planning system, also known as LaGov; and

9 WHEREAS, under her leadership, LaGov became a massive, multi-year initiative  
10 resulting in the implementation of a statewide information system that integrates accounting,  
11 finance, budgeting, procurement, staff training, payroll, inventory control, capital projects,  
12 travel management, and grant services, those of which Kathy had a keen understanding of  
13 detail and how they all worked together; and

14 WHEREAS, Kathy worked tirelessly with various governmental departments to  
15 incorporate data from essential agency stand-alone systems into the LaGov system, which  
16 has replaced obsolete systems and modernized state operations and secured millions in  
17 taxpayer savings. LaGov provides a common base for all state activities, and has become key  
18 to all statewide operations today; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2022 she received a well deserved award, the "Charles E. Dunbar,  
20 Jr. Career Civil Service Award", which is the highest honor classified state employees can  
21 receive for their service to the citizens of Louisiana; and

22 WHEREAS, Kathy will be remembered not only for her professional  
23 accomplishments, but also for her leadership, mentorship, and the relationships she built  
24 throughout her time in public service; and

25 WHEREAS, Kathy was a devoted wife, mother, and Mimi and enjoyed spending  
26 time with her children, grandchildren, dogs, and close friends, and whether in Florida or on  
27 the river, weekends on the water, surrounded by loved ones, was where she was happiest;  
28 and

29 WHEREAS, she is survived by her beloved husband of fifty-two years, John Thomas  
30 Sessums; her twin sons and daughter-in-laws, Brady (Cinclare) Sessums, Casey (Rebecca)

