

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

BY SENATORS BROOME, ADLEY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE AND REPRESENTATIVE HONORE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of former mayor of Baker and former Louisiana State Senator, Michael A. Cross, and to celebrate his life of public service, his humanity, and his many contributions made on behalf of the citizens of Senate District 13, of the city of Baker, and of the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it was with deep regret that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the death of former state senator, Mike Cross, on November 18, 2013, at the age of sixty-nine; and

WHEREAS, Mike Cross was an affable gentleman, kind and considerate, who possessed an indomitable spirit; he was open and honest; a consummate man of the people who never met a stranger, a vibrant human being with an endearing compassion for those he represented; and

WHEREAS, he was born on September 8, 1944, to parents, Aduron B. Cross and the former Margie McCulloch; and

WHEREAS, after graduation from Baker High School in 1962, he attended the University of Southwestern Louisiana, now known as University of Louisiana at Lafayette; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Baker, Mike was employed as a chemical plant manager when his life of public service began with his election as a member of the Baker

City Council in 1972 and later with his election as the city's mayor in 1976; and

WHEREAS, at that time, Mike was the youngest elected city council member and mayor in Louisiana and won a second mayoral term in 1980; and

WHEREAS, with each election he ran a grassroots campaign; he walked door-to-door, shook hands, and asked constituents about improvements that would make their community a better place in which to live; and

WHEREAS, his accomplishments were many, as councilman he voted to reduce the city's utility service fee to a flat rate of one dollar per month for senior citizens and as mayor he had ad valorem taxation rates reduced by thirty-three percent; and

WHEREAS, as mayor he was very energetic and brimming with new ideas; he focused on efficiency in city government operations that included adoption of a digital database format for utility services; and he was frugal with taxpayer monies and always had an end-of-year surplus; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, after serving five years as mayor, he ran and was elected to the Louisiana State Senate in a special election to fill a vacated seat and for fifteen years he represented Senate District 13 that included portions of the parishes of East Feliciana, East Baton Rouge, and Livingston; and

WHEREAS, during his distinguished tenure in the Louisiana Senate, Senator Cross authored and coauthored various critical pieces of legislation concerning pro-life issues, prolabor and the prevailing wage, local and municipal finance, tighter regulation of anabolic steroid usage, establishment of the Baker Independent School District, flood control and drainage infrastructure projects, and the creation of the homeschool program that provided parents with an educational alternative that allowed for a home-study curriculum; and

WHEREAS, during his exemplary service to the citizens of Louisiana, Senator Cross, a conservative, was a loyal and viable member of the Democratic Party; however, he cared little for partisan politics and more about what he could do for the betterment of the people he served; and

WHEREAS, while in the Louisiana Senate he served as chairman of the Senate committees on Health and Welfare, Environmental Quality, and Retirement; vice-chairman of the Finance Committee; and a member of the Senate committees on Judiciary B, Local

and Municipal Affairs, Retirement, Environmental Quality, and Labor and Industrial Relations; and

WHEREAS, after his tenure ended in the Louisiana Senate in 1996, Mike Cross was appointed as vice president of the Louisiana Housing Corporation, then opened his own lobbying firm, Cross and Co., which represented high level clients such as CLECO electric utilities and the Louisiana Municipal Association; and

WHEREAS, Mike Cross enjoyed the company of others; he possessed a friendly demeanor and a fun-loving spirit of adventure no matter what the activity; he loved music and singing; also he frequently used an adage, which he attributed to his father, that "Everyday is a good day, some are just better than others"; and

WHEREAS, Mike Cross is survived by his wife, Kristie, four sons, Michael Shane, Clifton Lance, Ryan Michael, and Matthew Aaron, two daughters, Lauren Adrienne and Christen Joanna Cross, and two sisters, Pat Cross and Lori C. Martinez, plus a host of precious friends and extended family; and

WHEREAS, Mike Cross shall be remembered by his many contemporaries in the Louisiana Legislature for his ability to stand his ground on principle, his fearlessness, his tireless work ethic, and his ability to speak directly from his heart; as a legislator, he was tenacious, always focused on the task at hand, and always personable; and

WHEREAS, Mike Cross was a Christian with a generous heart who shared his invaluable knowledge with others; he proved himself to be a man of many talents and of his word, and a man whose dedication to this state and its people was without par; and

WHEREAS, he wore the mantle of community service proudly and willingly while extending courtesy and friendship to all; and

WHEREAS, although the passing of Mike Cross has left a tremendous void in his community, he leaves a rich and unique legacy that shall live on in the hearts of all who knew him throughout the halls of this Legislature and the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the passing of Senator Mike Cross, businessman, civic leader, and legislator, and does hereby acknowledge that his life was well-spent in service to his country, his community, and his state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his family.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES