

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY SENATORS ALARIO, ADLEY, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, 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 REPRESENTATIVES CONNICK AND WOODRUFF

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of a beloved statesman, the Honorable J. Chris Ullo, former member of both the Louisiana Senate and the Louisiana House of Representatives.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the death of Chris Ullo of Marrero, who passed away on Thursday, January 16, 2014, two months shy of his eighty-sixth birthday; and

WHEREAS, Chris Ullo had the rare privilege of public service in both houses of the Louisiana Legislature for a combined total of thirty-six years, elected to the House of Representatives District Eighty-four from 1972 until 1988 and elected to Senate District Eight from 1988 until 2007; and

WHEREAS, Senator Chris Ullo was blessed with a quick smile and a firm handshake; he was a gentleman brimming with self-confidence, charisma, a keen sense of humor, and with a profound understanding of the complexities of issues affecting the people of south Louisiana; and who, through diligence and tenacity, led a fascinating life experiencing success in nearly every endeavor; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Marrero, Senator Ullo represented the populace of Jefferson Parish in that area known as the "West Bank"; from Terrytown to Grand Isle and in the rural communities of Crown Point, Barataria, and Lafitte in South Jefferson; and

WHEREAS, Chris Ullo embodied the best qualities of a public servant; he held a genuine interest in the people he served and felt a personal responsibility to represent all of his constituency with honesty and integrity; and

WHEREAS, he was born on March 16, 1928, to parents Mike and Carolina Drago Ullo; and

WHEREAS, he attended parochial grammar school, graduated from Marrero High School, and continued his studies at Tulane University in mechanical drawing; and

WHEREAS, Chris Ullo was married to the former Joyce Ann Daigle for sixty-three years and together they reared a family of four children, son, Chris John Ullo, and daughters, Cynthia Ullo Robbins, Frankie Ullo Boudreaux, and Bernie Ullo Blanchard, and were blessed with ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Chris Ullo was a businessman who had owned a towboat service and Ullo's Hardware, a prosperous hardware and department store in Marrero; and

WHEREAS, he was articulate and knowledgeable in those policies affecting the infrastructure and economic growth of Jefferson Parish, whether it was the plight of commercial fishermen or employees of the petro-chemical complex, Senator Ullo tried to strike a balance between the needs of all the factions within his district; and

WHEREAS, while in the House of Representatives he served as vice chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and took an active interest in oil and gas exploration and also served as vice chairman of the Energy Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures and the chairman of the Southwest Regional Energy Council; and

WHEREAS, in the Senate, Chris Ullo was chairman of the Senate Education Committee, with membership on Senate committees on Environmental Quality, Finance, Senate & Governmental Affairs, Judiciary C, and Natural Resources, the Joint Committee on the Budget, and the select committee on Coastal Restoration and Flood Control; and

WHEREAS, Chris Ullo took an avid interest in coastal reclamation, wetlands, and wildlife conservation and was instrumental in the development of Jean Lafitte State Park; and

WHEREAS, through his extraordinary talents of diplomacy and compromise, he brought to fruition important legislation that included economic development, right-to-work, energy production, highway and railroad infrastructure, teacher pay, educational accountability, student truancy, law enforcement, criminal justice, and coastal restoration; and

WHEREAS, Chris Ullo spoke out on the thorny issue of the return of public lands in Barataria to its previous owners; and

WHEREAS, Chris Ullo had been the deserving recipient of numerous honors and awards throughout the course of his exemplary career that included being named the 1978 Legislative Conservationist of the Year by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation; and

WHEREAS, his participation in community activities included that of past president of the Marrero Lions Club, International, and membership in the Hope Haven-Madonna Manor Boys' Home, the Italian-American Society, the Marrero-Harvey Volunteer Fire Department, and the Louisiana State Firemen's Association; and

WHEREAS, throughout his time as a legislator, his political philosophy embraced compromise, those give and take processes of representative democracy; Chris provided invaluable leadership to the legislative process and it was made better by his active participation; and

WHEREAS, Chris Ullo was a generous man blessed with an abundance of skills; he performed his public service proudly and willingly; he extended courtesy to all; and he leaves a rich and unique legacy of public service to his family, community, state, and nation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its sincere condolences to the family and friends of that great statesman, Senator J. Chris Ullo, a former member of both houses of the Legislature of Louisiana and a mainstay in Jefferson Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his widow, Joyce D. Ullo.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES