

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 153

BY SENATORS THOMPSON, ADLEY, ALARIO, 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, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of former Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry Robert Fulton "Bob" Odom Jr., and to acknowledge his life of public service and his many contributions to the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the death of former Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry, Robert Fulton "Bob" Odom Jr., on May 17, 2014, at the age of seventy-eight; and

WHEREAS, Robert Fulton "Bob" Odom Jr. was born in Haynesville, Louisiana, to parents Mary Traylor Odom and Robert Fulton Odom Sr., where he grew up on a one thousand acre cotton and dairy farm; and

WHEREAS, he was a graduate of Southeastern Louisiana University in Animal Science and the Marine Corps Command and Staff College; and

WHEREAS, he was commissioned a company commander with the United States Marine Corps and retired as Lieutenant Colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1980; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Odom began working with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry in 1960 and worked his way through various roles prior to his election as commissioner in 1979; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Odom served from 1979 until 2008, an unprecedented seven consecutive terms; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Odom was committed to service of the American farmer, understanding that the access to food and fiber are not only life preserving, but the foundation of our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, he often flew his own plane while traveling throughout the world to promote Louisiana agriculture and further the economic development of our state; and

WHEREAS, as commissioner, he was an energetic leader known for his tireless work ethic, his tenacity, and willingness to help anyone in need; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Odom was also an avid church and community leader, leading the building committee at Zachary First Baptist Church and a community renovation of the high school football field; and

WHEREAS, he also played a pivotal role in working with legislators and community leaders for the authorization and creation of the Zachary Community School System; and

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

WHEREAS, Commissioner Odom was honored by the USDA secretary in 1970, the Louisiana Legislature in 1976, and named Progressive Farmer Man of the Year in 1996; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments were recognized by countless communities, towns, cities, boards, commissions, and organizations for his leadership and commitment to agriculture and the people of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Odom served as president of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), the Southern U.S. Trade Association, and the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture, which helped bring the Louisiana agricultural industry to the national forefront; and

WHEREAS, he served on numerous other boards and commissions representing agriculture and was involved with many agricultural groups, including the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association, the American Sugar Cane League, and the Southern and LSU Ag Centers; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Odom spent his entire life in service to our state and nation and will always be remembered for his dedication to the promotion of the agriculture industry in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Odom is survived by his wife of nearly 46 years, Mildred "Millie" Randolph Odom; one son, Robert "Robb" Fulton Odom III and wife Monique; one daughter, Ashley Odom White and husband Ned; three granddaughters,

Taylor Brooke Odom, Baylie Monet Odom, and Brighton Lynn Thompson and one grandson, Nolan Randolph Thompson; four sisters, Mary Ann Bryant, Emily Odom Honeycutt and husband Billy; Anna Bess Kelley and husband Joe; Betty Sue Broussard and husband Donald; plus a host of precious friends and extended family; and

WHEREAS, although the passing of Commissioner Bob Odom 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 and throughout the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of former Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry Robert Fulton "Bob" Odom Jr., and does hereby recognize and record for posterity his life of public service and his many contributions to the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Robert Fulton "Bob" Odom Jr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES