

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38

BY SENATORS WALSWORTH, 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, THOMPSON, WARD AND WHITE AND REPRESENTATIVE CHANEY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of former state Senator Erle Edwards Barham upon his death.

WHEREAS, Erle Edwards Barham was a native son of Oak Ridge, Louisiana, born July 10, 1937, and lived in Oak Ridge throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, Erle Edwards Barham graduated from Oak Ridge High School in 1955 and then began his studies at Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College where he was a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity and earned his bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, Edwards Barham ran successful farm operations in both Louisiana and Mississippi for most of his life, and served as a member of the Louisiana Cotton Producers Association Inc., the Northeast Louisiana Rice Growers Association Inc., and was past president of the Morehouse Parish Farm Bureau; and

WHEREAS, Edwards Barham was very interested in education and ultimately became the only member of a higher education board who served on the Board of Regents, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, and the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges, serving as the chairman of each of those boards; and

WHEREAS, he also served from 1976 to 1980 in the Louisiana State Senate, always working for a higher quality of life for all of the citizens of the state, and becoming the first Republican elected to hold a state Senate seat since reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, Edwards was a successful businessman, a certified flight instructor and an accomplished farmer, known for his conservation concerns and appointed by President Richard Nixon to head a White House conservation initiative; and

WHEREAS, he also served as the chairman of the board of the Bank of Oak Ridge, served on the board of commissioners of the Morehouse General Hospital, and was a member and past president of the Oak Ridge Lions Club; and

WHEREAS, Edwards was also a very active member of the Masons and served as the past master of the Brookville Masonic Lodge Number 161 and on the executive committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, he also returned to college later in life and earned a master's degree in ornithology from the University of Louisiana at Monroe, previously known as Northeast Louisiana State College; and

WHEREAS, Edwards is cherished and will be dearly missed by his wife of fifty-six years, Bennie Faye; his children, Ben Edwards Barham II and wife Bonnie, Erle West Barham and wife Trudy, Robert Berry Barham and wife Camille, and Amy Barham Westbrook and husband Scott; and his two brothers, Thomas West Barham and Robert Jocelyn Barham.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deepest and most profound condolences to the family of former state Senator Erle Edwards Barham for the immeasurable loss they have suffered with the passing of such a compassionate and giving man who was known as a gifted story teller, historian, and true southern gentleman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of former state Senator Erle Edwards Barham.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES