

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 22

BY SENATORS PEACOCK, ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, BROWN, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE AND REPRESENTATIVE SEABAUGH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of United States District Court Judge Thomas Eaton Stagg Jr.

WHEREAS, Judge Tom Stagg was born on January 19, 1923, to Thomas E. Stagg Sr. and the former Beulah Meyer, and passed away in Shreveport on June 23, 2015, at the age of ninety-two; and

WHEREAS, Judge Stagg graduated from C. E. Byrd High School in 1939, attended Marion Military Institute in Alabama, and graduated from Louisiana State University with a bachelor of art's degree in 1943; and

WHEREAS, he served in the United States Infantry during World War II in both France and Germany during which time he was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star for Valor, and the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster; and

WHEREAS, Judge Stagg was saved from death when a German bullet struck the New Testament he carried in his pocket, and he shared that story and showed the bullet-scarred holy book to colleagues and friends for decades; and

WHEREAS, he briefly attended Cambridge University Law School in England and LSU Law School, where he received his Juris Doctor in 1949; and

WHEREAS, Judge Stagg began his legal career at the firm of Hargrove, Guyton, Van Hook and Hargrove, was a solo practitioner from 1953 to 1958, and thereafter became the senior partner with Stagg, Cady, Johnson and Haygood and the successor firm of Stagg, Cady and Beard; and

WHEREAS, while maintaining a thriving legal practice, he was also active in business and civic affairs, both locally and nationally, being very involved in the Jaycees, the Saint John's Parents Club, the Shreveport Airport Authority, and the annual Red Mass in the Shreveport-Bossier community; and

WHEREAS, he was awarded the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center's Distinguished Alumnus award and named to the Byrd High School Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, he was an active Republican at every level from the precinct on up, serving as a five-time delegate to the Republican National Convention from 1956 to 1972 and as national committeeman as well as chairman on several of the committees; and

WHEREAS, he was an elected delegate to the 1974 Louisiana Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS, Judge Stagg was appointed to the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana in 1974, served as chief judge from 1984 to 1991, and assumed senior status in 1992; and

WHEREAS, he continued as an active jurist for the remainder of his life and his personal feeling was that "this was the best job a guy could have"; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Betty Stagg of Dallas, Texas; and is survived by his wife of sixty-nine years, Margaret O'Brien Stagg, and daughters, Julie Harrington and husband Martin, of Denver, Colorado, and Margaret Sour of Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, "Pop Pop" is also survived by grandchildren, Sarah and Chris Garrett of Shreveport, Annie and Brad Weinig of Denver, Lauren and Tom Harrington of Palo Alto, California, and great-grandchildren Charlie Garrett, Maggie Garrett, and Pete Weinig; and

WHEREAS, Judge Stagg, known for his bow ties, enjoyed traveling, morning jaunts with his walking group, Monday night badminton games, and photography, and he called himself a "belly botanist" because he liked to get up close and personal with every wildflower he hoped to capture; and

WHEREAS, he has been described as prepared, detail-oriented, spirited, patriotic, full of wisdom and wit, and a great role model.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend condolences to the family of United States District Court Judge Thomas Eaton Stagg Jr.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his wife, Margaret O'Brien Stagg.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES