

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 114

BY REPRESENTATIVES DOWNS, ANDERS, AND GALLOT AND SENATORS ADLEY, ALARIO, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, CHABERT, CHAISSON, CHEEK, CLAITOR, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY, ERDEY, GAUTREAU, GUILLOREY, HEITMEIER, JACKSON, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARIONNEAUX, MARTINY, MCPHERSON, MICHOT, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MOUNT, MURRAY, NEVERS, PERRY, PETERSON, QUINN, RISER, SHAW, SMITH, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, AND WILLARD-LEWIS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Dr. F. Jay Taylor, former president of Louisiana Tech University.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the death of Dr. F. Jay Taylor, who served with distinction as president of Louisiana Tech University from 1962 until 1987, on Sunday, May 15, 2011, at the age of eighty-seven; and

WHEREAS, born on August 9, 1923, in Gibsland, Louisiana, Dr. Taylor graduated from Gibsland High School in 1940; that same year, Dr. Taylor first arrived at his beloved Louisiana Tech University as a freshman, spending two years there before enlisting as an aviation cadet in the United States Navy in May of 1942; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Taylor served his country with valor in World War II, logging two thousand hours of flight time as a Navy pilot, being sent to the Pacific area for two tours of duty, and rising to the rank of lieutenant commander before receiving an honorable discharge from the Navy in 1946; and

WHEREAS, following his brave and dedicated military service, Dr. Taylor earned a bachelor's degree in social science in 1948 at the University of California at Santa Barbara, a master's degree in history at the Claremont Graduate School in 1949, and a doctor of philosophy degree in history and government at Tulane University in 1952; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Taylor began his career in higher education as an associate professor of history and dean at Louisiana College in Pineville, Louisiana, and in his time

there, he authored two books: *The United States and the Spanish Civil War, 1936-39* and *Reluctant Rebel: The Secret Diary of Robert Patrick, 1961-65*; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, Dr. Taylor returned to Ruston to begin his long and very effective term of service as the twelfth president of Louisiana Tech University, then the Louisiana Polytechnic Institute and a small, rural institution with fewer than four thousand students; and

WHEREAS, twenty-five years later, at the end of Dr. Taylor's tenure as president in 1987, Louisiana Tech University was a renowned regional research institution with nearly eleven thousand students; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Taylor's superb guidance, the university underwent many highly significant developments, including the expansion of the graduate program to include new master's and doctoral degrees in several fields, all of which earned national recognition or accreditation; the expansion of summer programs in Mexico and Italy; major construction projects, including the Charles Samuel Wyly Tower of Learning and the university's major sports venues; and the shepherding of various athletic programs as they achieved success, including the creation of the women's basketball team, which became a national powerhouse; and

WHEREAS, an active and productive citizen and community servant, Dr. Taylor served on numerous state and national boards and commissions and was nationally recognized for his labor arbitration expertise; he served on the Labor-Management Commission of Inquiry, National Academy of Arbitrators, labor panels of the American Arbitration Association, and the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service; he also served on the State Advisory Council for Vocational Education, Committee on Science and Technology of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, the National Air Force ROTC Advisory Panel, the Appeals Committee for the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and the Board of Trustees of the Falcon Club; and he was most recently on the board of First Guaranty Bank; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Taylor is survived by his wife, Lou; his son, Terry, and his wife, Bernardine; his grandson, Andrew Taylor, and his wife, Dr. Cathy Taylor; his

granddaughter, Jennifer Williams, and her husband, Greg; and four grandchildren, Carlee and Ellie Taylor and Tommy and Rebecca Williams; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Taylor left an indelible mark on Louisiana Tech University and the lives of its students, faculty, staff, and alumni as one of the finest public servants in the history of the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Taylor, who was admired by all whose lives he touched, leaves a rich and unique legacy, and though his death has created a tremendous void, his memory shall live forever in the minds and hearts of all who knew and loved him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Dr. F. Jay Taylor, does hereby record for posterity his formative service during the quarter of a century he spent as president of Louisiana Tech University, does hereby extend enduring gratitude for the noble and exemplary strides he took in this position and for the vast and innovative improvements installed at the university under his leadership, does hereby pay tribute to him for a distinguished career of excellence, and does hereby recognize his singular and momentous contributions and achievements, which will long be remembered and will long continue to be a source of great pride for his family, his friends, Louisiana Tech University, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Dr. F. Jay Taylor.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE