

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 114

BY REPRESENTATIVES DOWNS AND GALLOT AND SENATOR KOSTELKA

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Dr. Joseph M. Smith, Sr., of Ruston.

WHEREAS, it was with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Legislature of Louisiana learned of the death of Dr. Joseph M. Smith, Sr., of Ruston on March 24, 2010, at the age of sixty-three; and

WHEREAS, born on May 2, 1946, in New Orleans, Louisiana, Dr. Smith graduated from Louisiana Tech University, where he was an active member of Tau Kappa Epsilon; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith was also a graduate of Louisiana State University Medical School in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith completed an internship at Charity Hospital in New Orleans, a residency at the Veteran's Affairs Hospital in Gulfport, Mississippi, and a residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation at Charity Hospital in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith was awarded a one-year teaching fellowship at the Rusk Rehabilitation Center in Columbia, Missouri, where he taught both residents and students certain aspects of rehabilitation medicine and was involved in the care of rehabilitation patients; and

WHEREAS, at the Rusk Rehabilitation Center, Dr. Smith was involved in setting up a cardiac rehabilitation program and working with certain aspects of pulmonary rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, with his board certification in the speciality of rehabilitation, Dr. Smith went to Lincoln General Hospital in Ruston in 1978, where he served as the medical director of the physical rehabilitation department for ten years; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Dr. Smith was instrumental in pursuing and establishing North Louisiana Rehabilitation Hospital in Ruston, and he served as the hospital's medical director after it opened in November of 1988; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, when health problems forced him to retire, Dr. Smith was unable to resist the call to help others and continued his private practice in service to the people of North Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith served with unwavering dedication as a member of the American Academy of Rehabilitation and the Congress of Rehabilitation Specialists; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith was a fellow of the American College of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and a member of the North Central Louisiana Medical Society and the American Board of Bariatric Medicine; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith was married for thirty-nine years to the love of his life, Esma Haik Smith, and the couple raised three children; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his love of medicine, Dr. Smith enjoyed fishing and traveling with his family; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith is survived by his loving wife, Esma Haik Smith; children, Joseph Mitchell Smith, Jr., and wife Melissa, Theodore Littleton Smith, and Joy Halaine Smith; grandchildren, Weston, Olivia, Anna Kate, and Jonah Smith; mother, Carmelite Gullotta Smith; brothers, Dr. George Smith and wife Jenny, Judge Wayne Smith and wife Polly, Dr. Tommy Smith and wife Dr. Nancy Smith, Dr. Billy Smith and wife Kelly, and Dr. Jimmy Smith and wife Laura; brothers-in-law, Judge Richard T. Haik and wife Kathleen and Theodore M. Haik, Jr., and wife Carol; sister-in-law, Joy Haik Zainey and husband Judge Jay Zainey; numerous nieces and nephews; and an array of extended family members and friends; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith was preceded in death by his father, Dr. Joseph L. Smith, Jr., and his grandson, James Patrick Michael Smith; and

WHEREAS, with the death of Dr. Smith, Louisiana has lost one of her finest citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith, who was admired by all whose lives he touched, leaves behind a rich and unique legacy and is greatly missed; and

WHEREAS, although the death of Dr. Smith has left a tremendous void in his community, his memory shall live on 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. Joseph M. Smith, Sr., of Ruston, does hereby recognize and record for posterity his outstanding accomplishments and singular contributions, and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the pride and honor that this wonderful man will forever bring to his family, friends, community, and state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Dr. Joseph M. Smith, Sr.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE