

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 209

BY REPRESENTATIVES NANCY LANDRY, BARRAS, STUART BISHOP, TERRY LANDRY, MONTOUCET, ORTEGO, PIERRE, AND ROBIDEAUX AND SENATORS CORTEZ, GUILLORY, MILLS, AND PERRY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize and record the contributions and accomplishments of the Honorable Kaliste Saloom, Jr., and commend him for his service to Acadiana Parish, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of America.

WHEREAS, born on May 15, 1918, in Lafayette, Louisiana, Kaliste Saloom, Jr., is the fifth of seven children of the late Kaliste and Asthma Boustany Saloom; and

WHEREAS, in 1939, Judge Saloom earned a bachelor of arts degree from the Southwestern Louisiana Institute of Liberal and Technical Learning, now known as the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where he also received the university's highest honor, the Outstanding Graduate Award; he pursued his Juris Doctorate from Tulane University Law School in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, in June of 1942, he became a member of the United States Army, just after his law school graduation; and

WHEREAS, as a result of his educational background and his knowledge of several languages, including English, French, Spanish, and Arabic, he was selected as a member of the Counterintelligence Corps; and

WHEREAS, in 1944, he was selected as one of six American intelligence agents to protect the British Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, during wartime; and

WHEREAS, throughout his notable service in the Army, he captured Nazis, Waffen-SS men, American traitors, and war criminals, and he helped apprehend the highest Nazi general in the Hitler youth, Karl Cerff; and

WHEREAS, in November of 1945, Kaliste Saloom, Jr., returned to his hometown of Lafayette as a war hero and opened his own law office, where he worked as a private attorney before becoming the city attorney in 1949; and

WHEREAS, as the city attorney, he helped design the Lafayette Utilities System, which brought the city's electric, water, and sewage operations to a more modern scale; and

WHEREAS, from 1952 until 1983, he served as the sole Lafayette City Court judge, a role in which he strived to encourage unity and obedience to the law, and in community courts, traffic safety, and juvenile programs; Judge Saloom became the first city judge appointed to the judicial council of the Louisiana Supreme Court; he received recognition from the United States Supreme Court and served on the board of directors for the National Center for State Courts; and

WHEREAS, Judge Saloom also served on former United States President Jimmy Carter's National Highway Safety Advisory, where he was named the "National 55 MPH" chairman and traveled from state to state to address legislatures and governors; and

WHEREAS, under former Attorney General Robert Kennedy, Judge Saloom innovated a system of release under certain conditions in which an honorable citizen would not be held in jail because he could not afford to post bail; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, after forty years of dedicated and outstanding service to the city of Lafayette as an attorney and judge, Judge Saloom retired, but he remains a strong advocate for the city; and

WHEREAS, on July 18, 2009, the Acadian Museum inducted Judge Saloom into the "Order of the Living Legends" in recognition of his efforts to help shape and define the Cajun culture of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Judge Saloom is the loving husband of Yvonne; together, they continue to work for the betterment of Lafayette; and

WHEREAS, he is the proud father of Kaliste Saloom, III, Leanne Saloom Howell, Douglas Saloom, and Gregory Saloom, all of whom practice law in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Judge Kaliste Saloom, Jr., remains an inspiration to his fellow citizens for the vital contributions he has made in his military career and his career of highly effective public service, and he merits the highest commendation for his unforgettable contributions to the city of Lafayette, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of

America, whose citizens will long reap the benefits of his incomparable legacy of integrity, leadership, and excellence.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Honorable Kaliste Saloom, Jr.; does hereby recognize and record for posterity his accomplishments and the historic strides he made as a military veteran and during his forty years of service to Lafayette as an attorney and judge; does hereby express to him the enduring appreciation of the state's citizens; and does hereby extend to him best wishes for full measures of success and happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Judge Kaliste Saloom, Jr.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE