

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 65

BY REPRESENTATIVES CARTER, ANDERS, ARNOLD, BADON, BARROW, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, WESLEY BISHOP, BROSSETT, BROWN, BURFORD, CARMODY, CHAMPAGNE, CHANEY, DANAHAY, DIXON, GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, GUILLORY, HAZEL, HENRY, HODGES, HOLLIS, HOWARD, HUNTER, IVEY, KATRINA JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JOHNSON, LAMBERT, LEGER, LOPINTO, MACK, MILLER, MONTOUCET, MORENO, JAY MORRIS, NORTON, PEARSON, PIERRE, PUGH, RICHARD, RITCHIE, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHRODER, SMITH, STOKES, TALBOT, THIBAUT, THIERRY, WHITNEY, AND WILLMOTT AND SENATORS ALARIO, ADLEY, 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, WALSWORTH, WARD, AND WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Theodore "Teddy" George Solomon, Sr., of New Orleans.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the death of a true legend, Theodore "Teddy" George Solomon, Sr., on Sunday, April 7, 2013, at the age of ninety-three; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Solomon was born to the late Najeeb Solomon, a Lebanese immigrant, and America Solomon in Port Arthur, Texas, on January 5, 1920, and grew up in McComb, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Solomon graduated from Louisiana State University with a bachelor's degree in business administration before serving his country with valor and fortitude during World War II as a member of the Army Air Force; and

WHEREAS, after the war, Mr. Solomon returned to McComb and married Doris Julia Carwie of Mobile, Alabama, in 1949; the couple had six children and relocated to New Orleans in 1969; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Solomon's rise to becoming a pioneer of the film industry began as a child when he worked in the silent movie house that was built by his father and uncle; and

WHEREAS, in 1948, Mr. Solomon entered the family business, forming Gulf States Theatres; and

WHEREAS, in his seven decades in the movie business, Mr. Solomon owned and operated every kind of theater, from indoor single screens to drive-ins and stadium-style megaplexes; and

WHEREAS, a true example of the American Dream, Mr. Solomon worked hard his entire life, growing his family's single movie house to more than six hundred theaters and drive-ins spread across eight states; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Mr. Solomon was elected president of the National Association of Theatre Owners, leading the reform of film bidding practices that continue to shape the industry; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Solomon began the Louisiana Film Commission, the entity that would ultimately establish Louisiana as the "Hollywood of the South"; and

WHEREAS, during a lifetime worthy of the silver screen, Mr. Solomon built a theater empire, sharing his immense love for the movies with countless others; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Solomon was equally known for his philanthropy, supporting several local and national organizations, including the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center, the Variety Club, and the Will Rogers Institute; and

WHEREAS, among Mr. Solomon's greatest philanthropic accomplishments were his donation of the City Park train ride in New Orleans, his donation of an eighty-acre northshore tract in Loranger to the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, and his endowment of the multi-million-dollar Solomon Victory Theater at the National World War II Museum; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Solomon served on the boards of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center Foundation, and the New Orleans Film and Video Festival; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Solomon received numerous awards throughout his lifetime for his many contributions to society, including his selection to the Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame in 1993, being named New Orleans Man of the Year in 1996 and ShowWester of the Year in 2004, and the Junior Achievement Lifetime Award in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Solomon also reigned as King Hermes XLIX in 1989 and was a lifelong member of the Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Solomon was preceded in death by his two sisters, Yvonne Solomon Thomas and Gloria Solomon; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Solomon is survived by his beloved wife, Doris Carwie; his six devoted children, George Solomon and wife Karen, Gloria Carter and husband Stephen, Gladys Brown and husband Jim, Glenda Bradley and husband Jim, Gary Solomon and wife Martha, and Glenn Solomon and wife Margaret; sixteen grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the death of Teddy Solomon has left a great void and created a genuine sense of sorrow in all who knew him, including his family, his friends, and those who are following in his footsteps in the film industry of Louisiana, all of whom mourn the loss of this wonderful man who served his state and nation so well; and

WHEREAS, Teddy Solomon was a beloved member of the "Greatest Generation" who leaves behind a rich and unique legacy of hard work and dedication and is greatly missed by all whose lives he touched.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Theodore "Teddy" George Solomon, Sr., of New Orleans, does hereby recognize and record for posterity his notable accomplishments and singular contributions, and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the pride and honor that this extraordinary man will forever bring to his family and friends, the city of New Orleans, 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 Teddy Solomon.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE