

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 131

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of William J. "Billy" Sanchez of New Orleans.

WHEREAS, the members of the House of Representatives were saddened to learn of the death of William J. "Billy" Sanchez, at the age of seventy-three; and

WHEREAS, William Sanchez was born on August 1, 1943, and matriculated through the New Orleans public school system; he answered the call to duty and served his country in the U.S. Air Force for four years; he was a crash rescue fire fighter; and

WHEREAS, upon his return from military service, Billy Sanchez was hired in 1966 by the New Orleans Fire Department; Billy earned an associate science degree in fire technology from Delgado Community College; and

WHEREAS, Billy married Norma Mitchell, and he and Norma raised their sons, Joseph Junis and William Jared; and

WHEREAS, Billy Sanchez was named to the New Orleans Fire Fighters Union Local 632 negotiating committee in 1974, was elected vice president of Local 632 in 1976, and was elected president in 1983; Mr. Sanchez served as president of the New Orleans Fire Fighters Association, president of the Professional Fire Fighters Association of Louisiana, and was the state representative for Louisiana of the International Association of Fire Fighters; and

WHEREAS, Billy Sanchez negotiated collective bargaining agreements for union workers, handled grievances, was an author of his union's constitutions and by-laws, organized new local unions, lobbied legislators at the Louisiana state capitol and in the U.S. congress, and helped to write national union laws and worked for passage of the laws; and

WHEREAS, he was appointed to the New Orleans Fire Fighters Pension & Relief Fund in 1975 to fill an unexpired term, and in 1976 was elected to a full two-year term; his reputation as a mover and shaker led to his election as president of the board of trustees, despite his newcomer status; Billy served six years as president of the board; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishments of William Sanchez include service as chairman of the Louisiana Fire Fighters supplemental pay board and on the Louisiana State Fire Marshall's advisory council, the round table on arson, the commission on fire safety, and the council on fire sprinklers; he worked on the Fire Training College advisory council and round table on fire service standards for Louisiana State University; Mr. Sanchez also worked for the Louisiana Department of Labor workers' comp advisory commission, the state's emergency response commission, the Louisiana advisory council for employment security, the state's trade, industry and tourism commission, the economic development advisory commission, and the Louisiana Maritime Development Authority; and

WHEREAS, Billy Sanchez spent a lifetime as a labor leader and was involved in lobbying for the Louisiana AFL-CIO; he was a member of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute and the Southern Federation of Professional Fire Fighters, and he fulfilled his mission to create better benefits for working men and women; he was known as a tough fighter who never backed down; and

WHEREAS, while family and friends will miss his presence, the memories of the life of William Sanchez will forever remain in the minds and hearts of those who knew and loved him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend deepest condolences upon the death of William J. "Billy" Sanchez; does hereby record for posterity the achievements made by Mr. Sanchez on behalf of laborers; and does hereby express best hopes for comfort and peace to those who mourn the transition of one of Louisiana's finest sons.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of William Sanchez.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES