

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 22

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences upon the death of Daniel Thomas "Tom" Murchison of Natchitoches

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Daniel
3 Thomas "Tom" Murchison of Natchitoches.

4 WHEREAS, it was with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the
5 House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana learned of the death of Daniel
6 Thomas "Tom" Murchison of Natchitoches on Saturday, January 7, 2012, at the age of
7 seventy-five; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison was born on October 26, 1936, in Memphis, Tennessee,
9 the first child of Dan and Margaret Murchison; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison spent his childhood in Sikeston, Missouri, and graduated
11 from Sikeston High School in 1955 before moving to Jackson, Tennessee, and receiving his
12 bachelor of arts degree from Union University in 1959; and

13 WHEREAS, while studying at Union University, Mr. Murchison met the love of his
14 life, Vicki Jean Dillow, who he married on September 10, 1960, and with whom he shared
15 the rest of his life; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison served his country with six months of active service in
17 the United States Army and six years in the Army Reserve, obtaining the rank of Captain
18 in the Judge Advocate General Corps; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison graduated from Tulane University School of Law in
20 1962, where he distinguished himself and earned many accolades, including graduating first
21 in class in the common law curriculum, being inducted into the Order of the Coif, serving

1 as managing editor of and authoring an article in the *Tulane Law Review*, and winning the
2 Edwin Mahoney Award for Excellence in Criminal Law; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison had a long and productive career as an attorney,
4 beginning with his work at Watson, Williams and Brittain in Natchitoches, which later
5 changed its name to Watson, Murchison, Crews, Arthur and Corkern, and ending at
6 Murchison and Murchison, LLC, which he established with his son, Tommy, and Robert
7 Owsley; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison served the people of Natchitoches effectively as
9 assistant city attorney from 1966 until 1973, and then city attorney from 1973 until 2004, in
10 addition to serving the people of Louisiana as a voting member of the Louisiana State Law
11 Institute for many years; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison found an outlet to share his wisdom and expertise in
13 teaching real estate, business law, and successions and trusts at Northwestern State
14 University; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison's talent and dedication led the Young Lawyer Division
16 of the Louisiana State Bar Association to name him the "Outstanding Young Lawyer of
17 Louisiana" in 1973, while his giving spirit, which he channeled to the people of Louisiana
18 through pro bono services, merited his recognition by both Kisatchie Legal Services and the
19 Louisiana State Bar Association; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison was a member of many legal societies, including the
21 Louisiana State Bar Association, where he served on the Law Reform Committee,
22 Natchitoches Parish Bar Association, American Judicature Society, American College of
23 Probate Counsel, and Kisatchie Legal Services, where he served on the board of directors;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison was a member of and officer for many civic
26 organizations, including the Natchitoches Parish Chamber of Commerce, Louisiana Jaycees,
27 the Lions Club, and the Northwestern State University Booster Club; he was named Man of
28 the Year in 1985 by the Natchitoches Parish Chamber of Commerce; and

29 WHEREAS, in addition to being an accomplished lawyer and public servant, Mr.
30 Tom Murchison was a man of faith; he was ordained a deacon in 1985; and

1 WHEREAS, in 1963, Mr. Murchison and his wife, Vicki, became members of First
2 Baptist Church, where he served many years as a youth Sunday School teacher, cofounded
3 the Couples Too class, and was involved in Youth Ministries, coaching basketball and track,
4 and assisting with the Royal Ambassador program; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison was a baseball enthusiast whose love of and self-
6 identification with the St. Louis Cardinals, who won thirteen pennants and eight World
7 Series during his lifetime, was so strong that he often found himself in fights with the team's
8 manager and considered members of the team to be his friends; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison's love of baseball and his sons led him to be a fixture
10 of local youth baseball and to cofound Natchitoches Area Dixie Youth, Inc., through which
11 he coached many teams and established a legacy as a statistician; and

12 WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious life, Mr. Murchison developed and maintained
13 many friendships with people he met during childhood, college, law school, and while
14 practicing law, attending church, and sporting events; his amiable personality allowed him
15 to make friends with almost anyone, especially those who would listen to his stories; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison was as well known for speaking at length about his
17 children and grandchildren, the Civil War, the Bible, and baseball as he was known for his
18 bow tie and ever-present cigar; and

19 WHEREAS, in addition to being a patriot, lawyer, teacher, coach, deacon, and dear
20 friend of many, Mr. Murchison was a family man who prioritized his wife and children
21 above all else; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison is survived by his wife, Vicki, three sons, Daniel T.
23 "Tommy" Murchison, Jr., and his wife Gretchen, Timothy Glenn "Tim" Murchison and
24 William Tyler Murchison and his wife Sally; grandchildren, Garrett Wayne Murchison,
25 Daniel Jacob Murchison, Katherine Victoria Murchison, Anna Grace Murchison, Ava
26 Margaret Murchison, Henry Ian Murchison, and Farrah Elizabeth Murchison; sisters, Dr.
27 Lynne Murchison and Judy Kirby and her husband James; brother-in-law, Kip Dillow and
28 his wife Linda; nieces, Amie Ramsey, Chandra Dillow, and Summer Bacon; nephews,
29 Matthew Kirby, Andrew Kirby, and Kipper Dillow; and his dear friend, whom he considered
30 family, Patricia Payne; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison is also survived and will be missed by his beloved work
2 family at Murchison & Murchison, LLC, especially the women of the firm, Jenny Settle,
3 Lynn Pierson, Sarah O'Bannon, Rachel Blanchard, and Hilary Goff; and

4 WHEREAS, faith, family, and friends were the most important things in Mr.
5 Murchison's life, and he never lost any of them; and

6 WHEREAS, with the death of Mr. Murchison, Louisiana has lost one of her finest
7 citizens, a gentleman of many gifts and talents, who has left an indelible mark on the lives
8 of those he touched; and

9 WHEREAS, although the death of Tom Murchison has left a tremendous void in his
10 community, his memory shall live forever in the minds and hearts of all who loved him and
11 all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
13 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the
14 death of Daniel Thomas "Tom" Murchison of Natchitoches, does hereby record for posterity
15 his outstanding accomplishments and singular contributions, and does hereby extend
16 enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that this wonderful man will
17 forever bring to his family, friends, community, state, and nation.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
19 to the family of Daniel Thomas "Tom" Murchison.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Cox

HR No. 22

Expresses condolences upon the death of Daniel Thomas "Tom" Murchison of Natchitoches.