

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 49

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

A RESOLUTION

To express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of William Kearney Christovich of New Orleans.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the death of William Kearney Christovich of New Orleans on Tuesday, April 10, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Christovich was born in New Orleans in 1927 to Alvin Richard Christovich and Elyria Kearney Christovich; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Jesuit High School, Mr. Christovich served his country with valor and fortitude in the United States Navy as a radioman during World War II aboard the USS Wingfield DE 194; and

WHEREAS, in 1948, Mr. Christovich met his lifelong partner and wife of sixty-two years, Mary Louise Mossy, with whom he built a loving and dedicated family; and

WHEREAS, after being discharged from the Navy Reserve, Mr. Christovich attended Tulane University and obtained his juris doctorate from Tulane University Law School in 1950; and

WHEREAS, in 1950, Mr. Christovich joined the law firm Christovich & Kearney, where he became a partner, practicing civil defense trial work, specializing in products liability, and litigating maritime disputes and accidents and professional liability contests; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Christovich's success in trials throughout the state of Louisiana in federal and state district courts, courts of appeal, and the Louisiana Supreme Court earned him a place among the "Best Lawyers in America", a title he held from the inception of these rankings until his retirement in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Christovich was active in many legal associations; he followed his father as past president of the International Association of Defense Counsel, was a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers in 1976, executive board member of the Defense Research Institute, member of the board of governors for the Louisiana Bar Association for twenty years, and member of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, Federal Bar Association, New Orleans Bar Association, and, for over fifty years, the Maritime Association of the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, Mr. Christovich received the Curtis Boisfontaine Trial Advocacy award from the Louisiana Bar Foundation for his long-standing devotion to and excellence in trial practice and upholding the standards of ethics and consideration for the courts, litigants, and all counsel; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Christovich bestowed his wisdom upon future lawyers by serving as a professor at the Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center and Tulane Law School, where a professorship honors his name; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being a legal practitioner and professor, Mr. Christovich was also dedicated to historic preservation, serving as a charter member of the Friends of the Cabildo, past chairman of the Louisiana State Museum board, and member of the Laussat Society of the Historic New Orleans Collection and the Felicity Street Redevelopment Association, and having assisted in the establishment of Save Our Cemeteries and the Preservation Resource Center in 1974; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Christovich worked diligently to improve the city of New Orleans by preserving its beautiful nineteenth-century structures and pioneering its twentieth century lakeshore expansion; he was a member of the Garden District Association for twenty-five years and received the Terry Parkensen Award for a house he restored, in addition to serving as past president of the Lakeshore Property Owners Association and providing legal representation to the lakefront for thirty-five years; and

WHEREAS, in addition to residential structures, Mr. Christovich was active in the restoration of the churches he attended, St. Mary's Assumption and St. Patrick's; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Christovich's charitable spirit extended beyond historic preservation to patronizing Jesuit High School and Tulane Law School and serving as a board member

of the Loyola College of Music and Fine Arts and executive board member of the New Orleans Opera Association; and

WHEREAS, when Mr. Christovich had time for leisure, he enjoyed tennis, golf, opera, and a weekly lunch with his law school classmates; and

WHEREAS, William Christovich is survived by his wife, Mary Louise Mossy; daughters, Anne Therese "Terry" Gay and Marie Elise "Kit" Grote, and sons, Michael Mossy Christovich and Jeffrey James Christovich; grandchildren, Keenan Ellis Grote, William Armand Grote, William Kearney Gay, John-Michael Christovich, Eli James Gay, Elyria Kearney Eileen Grote, Michelle Mossy Christovich, Amanda Rachel Christovich, Olivia Harriss Christovich, and Cameron Wiley Christovich; great-grandchildren, William Tate Gay and Kiernan Markwith Grote; and brother, Alvin R. Christovich, Jr.; and

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of William Kearney Christovich of New Orleans, does hereby record for posterity his outstanding accomplishments and singular contributions, and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that this wonderful man will forever bring to his family, friends, community, state, and nation.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES