

2020 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 63

BY REPRESENTATIVES ILLG AND STAGNI

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Firmin Edward Simms.

WHEREAS, Firmin Edward Simms was born in New Orleans on December 30, 1928, to Frank and Della Simms; and

WHEREAS, Firmin's love of sports developed early in his life; he also found inspiration in the Catholic education he received at Holy Cross High School, from which he graduated in 1946; and

WHEREAS, at the age of seventeen, Firmin began coaching and discovered how sports could help kids learn valuable life lessons; he made sure that all of his teams understood that God came first, teammates second, and self last; and

WHEREAS, Firmin was a member of the Louisiana National Guard and worked as a foreman for Bell South for thirty-seven years; he was also a coach and supervisor for the New Orleans Recreation Department for many years; and

WHEREAS, during his youth sports coaching career, Firmin received numerous awards; he was the recipient of the Louisiana Association of Basketball Coaches' "Mr. Louisiana Basketball" award in 2007; he was also a highly decorated Babe Ruth Baseball League coach for forty-six years, coaching with the New Orleans Recreation Department and the Jefferson Parish Recreation Department Westbank and securing five championships; he also served as the national director of Bidy Basketball for the last twenty-four years; and

WHEREAS, Firmin loved trips to the Holy Land and to Hawaii; he also enjoyed taking family trips to Disneyworld and Busch Gardens and going to watch the Yankees play with his son; and

WHEREAS, Firmin is survived by his wife, Jacklyn Brooks Simms; his daughters, Carolyn Simms Block, and her husband Doug, Mary Elizabeth Simms Hecker, and her husband John, Laurie Simms Wahlder, and her husband Tommy, and Sandra Simms Roach Nuss, and her husband Mark; his son Gerard John Simms, and his wife Ann; his step-daughters, Judy Brooks Nodurft, and her husband Danny, and Jody Brooks; his step-sons, Jay Brooks, and his wife Vicki, and Jeff Brooks, and his wife Lisa; fifteen grandchildren; nine step-granchildren; eight great-grandchildren; eight step-great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives; and

WHEREAS, Firmin Edward Simms was truly a man of God who placed others before himself, and his passion for teaching spiritual virtues to young people has sealed his legacy on earth; he will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Firmin Edward Simms; does hereby offer appreciation for Firmin's continuous efforts to help the youth in the New Orleans area through his love of God and sports; and does hereby extend sincere hopes and wishes that his family find comfort during this difficult time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Firmin Edward Simms.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES