

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 9

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of former Louisiana State Senator Willie E. Crain, Sr.

WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of Representatives has learned of the death, on February 12, 2022, of former Louisiana State Senator Willie Eugene Crain, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Willie was born on November 7, 1942, as one of twelve children born to Edward Crain, a farmer and Baptist preacher, and Gussie Lee Crain; and

WHEREAS, Willie was a born leader; he was an All-District linebacker and captain of the Oak Grove Fighting Tigers football team and was chosen by his peers as "Mr. Oak Grove High School"; in addition to his extracurricular involvement in high school, he also worked as a disc jockey for KWCL radio station, which is where he met the love of his life, Dorothy Fuller; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, Willie married Dorothy; soon after, he enlisted in the United States Air Force and moved across the globe to serve at his assigned post in Pakistan; he served as a sergeant in the USAF intelligence division; and

WHEREAS, while serving his country, Willie also pursued higher education by taking courses at Centenary College, Louisiana Tech University, and Northeast Louisiana University; and

WHEREAS, Willie and Dorothy eventually settled in Monroe, Louisiana, where they raised a family of five children and Willie began his career in the automobile business; he started by opening a leasing company then expanded by buying his own dealership, Crain Chevrolet-Olds-Pontiac, in Rayville, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Willie was a genuinely civic-minded individual who contributed to his community throughout his life; he was a member of the Scottish Rite and served as president of the Bayou Desiard Optimist Club; he was a devoted, longtime member of Lakeshore Baptist Church where he taught Sunday School for many years; he also coached several youth sports teams, proudly served as the University of Louisiana at Monroe Athletic Booster Club President, and served as a commentator for football games on the radio; and

WHEREAS, a true product of humble beginnings, Willie found his passion and drive through service to others, and his commitment to the community led him to seek public office; his political career began as a police juror in Ouachita Parish; during his tenure, he served as police jury president and was responsible for creating the East Ouachita Recreation District and countless other advancements in the parish; and

WHEREAS, Willie's political career advanced rapidly, and in 1988 he was elected to serve as the Louisiana State Senator for District 33; as a state senator, he was a visionary who employed a thoughtful, intelligent, and charismatic approach to successfully navigate the legislative process; he served on several committees during his first term and was selected to chair the Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs; and

WHEREAS, Senator Crain played an instrumental role in passing numerous pieces of legislation that secured funding for countless projects across the state, including the University of Louisiana at Monroe Library, the Forsythe Extension, and many others; his work was not without recognition, as he was selected by his peers as "Legislator of the Year" on numerous occasions; and

WHEREAS, after completing his service as senator, former Senator Crain founded Louisiana Consulting and Planning, where he worked diligently to obtain funding for municipalities and rural areas in Northeast Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Willie Eugene Crain, Sr., leaves to cherish his memory his sons, Gene Crain, and his wife Missy, and Scott Crain, and his wife Mandy; daughters, Tammy Crain Waldrop and Tana Higdon, and her husband Creg; son-in-law, David Cleveland; thirteen grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends; and

WHEREAS, former Senator Willie E. Crain, Sr., was a truly beautiful soul who cared for nothing more than his community; he will be deeply missed, but the legacy of his impact will live on forever.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of former Louisiana State Senator Willie E. Crain, Sr.; does hereby recognize his lifelong commitment to public service and his unrelenting dedication to the people of Northeast Louisiana; and does hereby extend sincere wishes that his family, friends, and loved ones find some sense of comfort in their memories of him during this extremely difficult time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Willie Eugene Crain, Sr.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES