

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 120

BY SENATORS ALARIO, ADLEY, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE AND REPRESENTATIVES KLECKLEY, ABRAMSON, ADAMS, ANDERS, ARMES, ARNOLD, BADON, BARRAS, BARROW, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, STUART BISHOP, WESLEY BISHOP, BOUIE, BROADWATER, BROWN, BURFORD, HENRY BURNS, TIM BURNS, BURRELL, CARMODY, CARTER, CHANEY, CONNICK, COX, CROMER, DANAHAY, DOVE, EDWARDS, FANNIN, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GAROFALO, GEYMANN, GISCLAIR, GUILLORY, GUINN, HALL, HARRIS, HARRISON, HAVARD, HAZEL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HONORE, HOWARD, HUNTER, HUVAL, IVEY, JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, MIKE JOHNSON, ROBERT JOHNSON, JONES, LAMBERT, NANCY LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LOPINTO, LORUSSO, MACK, MIGUEZ, MILLER, MONTOUCET, MORENO, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, NORTON, ORTEGO, OURSO, PEARSON, PIERRE, PONTI, POPE, PRICE, PUGH, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, RITCHIE, ROBIDEAUX, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHRODER, SEABAUGH, SHADOIN, SIMON, SMITH, ST. GERMAIN, STOKES, TALBOT, THIBAUT, THIERRY, WHITNEY, ALFRED WILLIAMS, PATRICK WILLIAMS, WILLMOTT AND WOODRUFF

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of
 respected and longtime Louisiana Capitol Bureau reporter Edmund "Ed" James
 Anderson Jr.

WHEREAS, Edmund "Ed" James Anderson Jr. was born on September 2, 1947, in
 New Orleans, Louisiana, and lived his entire life in the great state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Ed graduated from his beloved DeLaSalle High School in uptown New
 Orleans in 1965, a distinction he shared with his longtime friend and former Louisiana
 Senate President John Hainkel, Louisiana Secretary of State Tom Schedler, and many others;
 and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Ed received a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism with minors in
 History and English from Loyola University, where he was proud to return to teach
 Communications as an adjunct professor from 1980 to 1987, selflessly working after hours

and on weekends with student journalists to help them develop the skills necessary to succeed in journalism; and

WHEREAS, Ed's journalism career began in earnest when the *Times-Picayune* hired him in June 1969 to write as a general assignment reporter in New Orleans and later to serve as assistant night city editor and night city editor between 1971 and 1974; and

WHEREAS, Ed began covering the legislature in 1980, commuting from New Orleans to work alongside his mentor, longtime *Times-Picayune* columnist and Capitol reporter Jack Wardlaw, and then, in 1988, Ed moved to Baton Rouge, where he would live for the rest of his life, to report full time from the Times-Picayune Capitol Bureau; and

WHEREAS, without argument, Ed distinguished himself working tirelessly to help Louisiana citizens understand some of the key issues facing the state through his coverage of legislation, state agency operations, the governor's office, and statewide politics, covering stories which included the 1973 Louisiana Constitutional Convention and the 1979 New Orleans Police Department strike; and

WHEREAS, Ed understood the importance of relationships, establishing trusted friends and sources over the administrations of six different Louisiana governors and more than three decades of the Louisiana Legislature, and he was known for his relentless, thorough, hard-hitting, and, most of all, fair reporting – truly a one-of-a-kind human being; and

WHEREAS, Ed believed that his most significant contribution to life and journalism as a profession was trying to improve the quality of writing and reporting of government and politics for the average reader so that he or she could make more informed decisions; and

WHEREAS, he developed such an institutional knowledge and covered the process for so long that he literally became *part* of the process, counting among his close friends Louisiana Senate President John Alario; and

WHEREAS, in September 2012, Ed was laid off from the *Times-Picayune* when it chose to dramatically reduce the number of its reporting staff, at which time Ed left to Louisiana an unparalleled body of news stories and history of Louisiana's legislature, governors, and elected officials at all levels of Louisiana politics; and

WHEREAS, in January 2013, Ed accepted a position with Louisiana Legislative

Auditor Daryl Purpera as the Senior Report Analyst in the Publishing Section, where he was proud to work with the "watchdogs" in state government; and

WHEREAS, Ed held membership and leadership positions in the Press Club of New Orleans, the Society of Professional Journalists, the Gridiron Club of New Orleans, the Press Club of Baton Rouge, and the Capitol Correspondents Association; and

WHEREAS, serving as board president on three different occasions for the Capitol Correspondents Association, Ed was so determined to maintain the association's annual Gridiron Show's distinction as "the longest continuously running Gridiron Show in the United States" that he would meet with colleagues and friends two evenings a week from December through March, and then for two weeks of rehearsals before the two-night show, refusing to take solo singing parts; and

WHEREAS, Ed was an absolutely devoted Saints fan, having attended the first Saints game ever, as well as the first game the team played in the Superdome after Hurricane Katrina, and he was also a die-hard LSU Tigers fan, bringing his consummate "Monday bad mood" to the office the following week if either or both of his favorite teams lost; and

WHEREAS, the true love of Ed's life was Karen Rowley, his long-time fellow-journalist, confidant, and soulmate, a woman who selflessly cared for him in every way and every day throughout not only their long and deepening friendship, but particularly in the last few extremely difficult months; and

WHEREAS, after two months in the hospital and an extremely brave battle against blood clots and cancer, Ed passed away in his sleep early on the morning of Thursday, May 28, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Edmund "Ed" James Anderson Jr. was the embodiment of an excellent journalist who knew the importance of writing for the average person and believed that it was the role of a proper journalist to accurately understand the problems of his state and to contribute back to society by compellingly communicating not only the solutions to those problems but the process in which those solutions were debated and ultimately chosen; and

WHEREAS, for more than four action-packed decades, our dear friend Ed – a journalist's journalist – accomplished that very goal with clarity, humility, and the kindest of hearts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby offer its condolences, on behalf of its members present and past and on behalf of the citizens of the state, to the family and friends of Edmund "Ed" James Anderson Jr., a native Louisianian, a preeminent and respected journalist, and a friend who will be sorely missed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Karen Rowley and Ed's brother, Craig Anderson.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES