

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 28

BY SENATORS CHAISSON, ADLEY, ALARIO, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, CHABERT, CHEEK, CLAITOR, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY, ERDEY, GAUTREUX, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JACKSON, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARIONNEAUX, MARTINY, MCPHERSON, MICHOT, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MOUNT, MURRAY, NEVERS, PERRY, PETERSON, QUINN, RISER, SHAW, SMITH, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH AND WILLARD-LEWIS AND REPRESENTATIVES ABRAMSON, ANDERS, ARMES, ARNOLD, AUBERT, AUSTIN BADON, BOBBY BADON, BALDONE, BARRAS, BARROW, BILLIOT, BISHOP, BROSSETT, BURFORD, HENRY BURNS, TIM BURNS, BURRELL, CARMODY, CARTER, CHAMPAGNE, CHANDLER, CHANEY, CONNICK, CORTEZ, CROMER, DANAHAY, DIXON, DOERGE, DOVE, DOWNS, EDWARDS, ELLINGTON, FANNIN, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GALLOT, GEYMAN, GISCLAIR, GREENE, GUILLORY, GUINN, HARDY, HARRISON, HAZEL, HENDERSON, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILL, HINES, HOFFMANN, HONORE, HOWARD, HUTTER, HUVAL, GIROD JACKSON, MICHAEL JACKSON, JOHNSON, ROSALIND JONES, SAM JONES, KATZ, KLECKLEY, LABRUZZO, LAFONTA, LAMBERT, LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, LIGI, LITTLE, LOPINTO, LORUSSO, MCVEA, MONICA, MONTUCET, MORENO, MORRIS, NORTON, NOWLIN, PEARSON, PONTI, POPE, PUGH, RICHARD, RICHARDSON, RITCHIE, ROBIDEAUX, ROY, SCHRODER, SEABAUGH, SIMON, SMILEY, GARY SMITH, JANE SMITH, PATRICIA SMITH, ST. GERMAIN, STIAES, TALBOT, TEMPLET, THIBAUT, THIERRY, TUCKER, WHITE, WILLIAMS, WILLMOTT AND WOOTON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of renowned businessman and former Louisiana State Senator Ken Hollis and to note his life of public service and his many contributions made on behalf of the citizens of Jefferson Parish, the city of New Orleans, and the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it was with deep regret that the members of the Legislature of Louisiana had learned of the death of former state senator, Jesse Kendrick "Ken" Hollis, Jr., on September 10, 2010, at the age of sixty-eight; and

WHEREAS, Ken Hollis was a kind, honest, consummate gentleman, a vibrant human being with an endearing compassion for the people he represented, and an entrepreneur, who with diligence, hard work, and astute business acumen built a successful insurance conglomerate, Hollis Companies, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, he was born in Alexandria, Louisiana, on March 13, 1942, to parents, Jesse K. Hollis, Sr., and Roberta Brown Hollis; and

WHEREAS, after graduation from Bolton High School in 1960, he earned an undergraduate degree in Business Administration from Louisiana Tech University in 1964, then began his professional career with MassMutual Insurance Financial Group; and

WHEREAS, he proudly served his country from 1967 until 1974, as a captain in the United States Army Reserves; and

WHEREAS, his life of public service began in 1980, when he was first elected to represent the constituents of District No. 4 on the Jefferson Parish Council; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, he was elected to the Louisiana State Senate from District No. 9 where he served as the lone Republican member of the upper chamber for many years; and

WHEREAS, during that time, Senator Hollis served with distinction on numerous Senate committees, including service as chairman of the Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs Committee for twelve years, chairman of the Senate Select Committee on the Greater New Orleans Expressway, and chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Disaster Planning, Crisis Management, Recovery and Long-Term Revitalization, Jefferson Parish Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, during his distinguished tenure in the Louisiana Senate, Senator Hollis engaged in crusades to fight for consumer protection in the realm of financial lending and for the promotion of economic development activities throughout the state of Louisiana that included recruitment of new businesses, retention of the New Orleans Saints, and the completion of Harrah's Casino; and

WHEREAS, Senator Hollis authored and co-authored various critical pieces of legislation, including the creation of the Louisiana Lottery, the creation of the Louisiana Certified Capital Companies Program, the passage of a statewide construction code, the creation of an office of motor vehicles toll free "hot line", the removal of the northbound tolls on the New Orleans Causeway, prohibition against an "earnings tax", an overhaul of the Louisiana pilots' industry, and successful passage of the "self-help" repossession law and other important banking, insurance, and commercial regulation issues; and

WHEREAS, he championed the Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Corporation, a state mandated insurance pool that provided affordable homeowner's insurance in the wake of the Hurricane Katrina disaster; and

WHEREAS, as a tribute to his exemplary service to the citizens of Jefferson Parish, Senator Hollis served in the legislature with either little or no political opposition until term limited in 2008 after twenty-six years in the Senate; and

WHEREAS, as a patron of art and music, his efforts secured state funding for the completion of the Jefferson Performing Arts Center in Metairie; and

WHEREAS, he gave back to the community through his many contributions to local charities and gave special support to the Greater New Orleans Therapeutic Riding Center, an activities facility that provides equine therapy for handicapped adults and children; and

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2011, the Cancer Crusaders of New Orleans held a charity golf tournament at English Turn Country Club and dedicated the event in the memory of Senator Ken Hollis; and

WHEREAS, Ken Hollis enjoyed the company of others; he possessed a friendly demeanor and a fun-loving spirit of adventure whether golfing, fishing, or tossing mullets at the Flora-Bama; and

WHEREAS, as the son of an automobile salesman, Senator Hollis had developed a lifelong penchant for sleek, classic cars and amassed quite a collection during his lifetime; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, he married the former Diane Woods and together, with their blended families, celebrated eleven years of love and devotion with sons Michael, Paul, and Jesse K. "Trey" Hollis III, and with daughters Heather Menendez, Jennifer Stephens, and Casie Woods, plus a host of precious grandchildren, extended family, and friends; and

WHEREAS, Ken Hollis shall be remembered by his many contemporaries in the Senate for his fearlessness, his tireless work ethic, and his ability to speak directly from his heart; as a legislator, he was tenacious and bold, always focused on the task at hand; always engaging and hard working; and

WHEREAS, Ken Hollis was a man with a generous heart who shared his invaluable knowledge with others; he proved himself to be a man of many talents, a man of his word, and a man whose dedication to this state and its people was without par; and

WHEREAS, he wore the mantle of community service proudly and willingly while extending courtesy and friendship to all; and

WHEREAS, although the passing of Ken Hollis has left a tremendous void in his community, he leaves a rich and unique legacy that shall live on in the hearts of all who knew him throughout the halls of this legislature and the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in the holy scriptures, St. Paul the Apostle wrote .."*For I am now ready to be offered up and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, and I have kept the faith.*"

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the passing of Senator Ken Hollis, businessman, civic leader, and legislator, and does hereby acknowledge a life well-spent in service to his country, his community, and his state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to his widow, Mrs. Diane W. Hollis, and family.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES