

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 28

BY SENATORS JOHNS, ADLEY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, 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 DANAHAY, FRANKLIN, GEYMAN AND KLECKLEY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Lake Charles attorney, Benjamin W. Mount, and to commend a life well spent in service to his community and to note the proud legacy he leaves to the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it is with great sadness and heavy hearts that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing of Benjamin W. Mount, a distinguished gentleman, renowned attorney, civic leader, and chairman of the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors, on December 3, 2011, at the age of sixty-two; and

WHEREAS, Ben Mount was a vibrant man with a quick smile and a lively demeanor who, through diligence and hard work, experienced great success in public life, and as a true southern gentleman, never forgot to say, "thank you"; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin Wakefield Mount was born on May 25, 1949, to parents Crawford and Betty Storer Mount, and reared in Iowa, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, he enrolled at McNeese State University, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1971, then earned a Jurist Doctor from Louisiana State University Law Center in 1974, and later established the law firm of Bergstedt & Mount; and

WHEREAS, Ben was a gracious servant of the community who expressed gratitude for his good fortune by his participation in all manner of civic, social, and religious interests; and

WHEREAS, his professional affiliations include Louisiana State Bar Association, Southwest Louisiana Bar Association, Southwest Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel, Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel, Louisiana Society of Hospital Attorneys, Louisiana Bar Foundation Fellow, Defense Research Institute, Bar Association of the Fifth Circuit, Assistant Bar Examiner, and Bar Association Disciplinary Committee Mentor; and

WHEREAS, his philanthropy was boundless and he had longtime service as both member and officer of the Calcasieu Kiwanis Club, McNeese State University Golden Saddle Club, American Cancer Society, and the Sowela Vocational and Technical School Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Ben Mount's enthusiasm for nurturing youth development centered on the South Lake Charles Little League as manager and coach, leading the 2001 team to the Little League World Series; also the Family and Youth Foundation and the Calcasieu Council of Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, his civic duties were focused on Louisiana Preservation Alliance, Calcasieu Arts Council, Lake Charles League of Women Voters, City of Lake Charles Annexation Committee, and Chennault Industrial Airpark Tax Initiative; and

WHEREAS, he took a special interest in the Calcasieu Preservation Society and led the fight to restore and preserve the Central School as an "arts and humanities" center; he also organized and formed the Margaret Place Historical District; and

WHEREAS, many public and nonprofit agencies benefitted from his guidance, including the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors as its chairman, Women's and Children's Hospital, Lake Charles Mental Health Advisory Board, Mid-Louisiana Health Systems Agency, McNeese State University Bi-Racial Diversity Committee, Calcasieu Parish Women's Shelter, Inc., Southwest Louisiana United Way, and Christmas in April; and

WHEREAS, he received many accolades during his prestigious career that included receipt of the Jim Leigh Award from the United Way and the 2006 Civic Service Award from The Chamber/Southwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Ben Mount inspired the coupling of two local fund-raising events, the Free to Breathe Lake Charles Lung Cancer 5K Run and One Mile Walk and the Lung Cancer Awareness Breakfast, to increase financial support for research, education, and awareness

programs; the March 2012 event is dedicated to his memory; and

WHEREAS, Ben was instrumental in the formation of the Louisiana Chapter of the National Lung Cancer Partnership which secures funding for the Louisiana Hope Research Grant; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life Ben Mount was a man of action and his proactive stance made him a positive force at all levels of human endeavor; and

WHEREAS, Ben Mount had a lighter side for he was a Mardi Gras reveler who celebrated the carnival season as a member of the Krewe of Mystique and served as its king in 2009; and

WHEREAS, as a humble servant of God and a man of unfaltering faith, Ben Mount was a member of First United Methodist Church of Lake Charles and served as a district lay leader, District Chairperson for the Council on Ministries; District Chairperson for the Committee on District Superintendence, as well as Chancellor for the Louisiana Conference of the United Methodist Church for fifteen years, past member of the Louisiana Conference Board of Trustees, Louisiana Conference Board of Higher Education, and Louisiana Conference Center Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by the love of his life, Willie Landry Mount, his wife of thirty-five years, his mother, Betty Storer Mount, mother-in-law, Willie Landry, two sisters, Ann Courville and husband James, Jean Kamla and husband Roger, sister-in-law, Sandy Moore and husband Nolan, brother-in-law, Dr. Richard Landry and wife Gaye, sister-in-law Marsha Chapman and husband Ted, fourteen nieces and nephews, extended family, and dear friends; and

WHEREAS, Ben Mount was a man of great strength and intellect, a caring individual who has left his mark on the Lake Charles community and the state of Louisiana, who envisioned the potential for individual and economic growth through readily available educational opportunities, and who met the challenges of life head-on with zeal and candor tempered with immense love of family and compassion for his fellow man.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Benjamin W. Mount and especially to his wife, our friend and former colleague, Senator Willie Mount.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby celebrate his extraordinary life and commend the rich legacy that Ben Mount leaves to the benefit of future generations and acknowledges a life well spent in the service of his country, his community, his state, and his God.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his widow, Willie Landry Mount.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES