

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29

BY SENATORS KLEINPETER, ABRAHAM, BARROW, BASS, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CONNICK, COUSSAN, EDMONDS, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HARRIS, HENRY, HODGES, JACKSON-ANDREWS, JENKINS, LAMBERT, MILLER, MIZELL, PRICE, REESE, SEABAUGH, STINE, WHEAT AND WOMACK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of former Louisiana State Senator, the Honorable Thomas A. "Tom" Greene, to acknowledge his commitment, to note his many contributions made on behalf of, and to commend the legacy of public service he leaves to the people of his community, the state of Louisiana, and the nation.

WHEREAS, it is with great sadness that the citizens of Louisiana have learned of the passing from this life on March 22, 2024, of former Louisiana State Senator, Thomas A. "Tom" Greene; and

WHEREAS, Thomas A. "Tom" Greene was born on September 7, 1948, one of seven children born to the union of George and Wylie Mae Greene; and

WHEREAS, he was a native of Fenton, a village in Jefferson Davis Parish, Louisiana, where his father served as mayor and his mother ran the local post office; and

WHEREAS, Thomas A. "Tom" Greene was a three-time graduate of LSU having earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, a master's degree in nuclear engineering and a doctorate degree in veterinary medicine and served as the LSU College of Engineering's Student Body President in 1970; and

WHEREAS, Thomas A. "Tom" Greene and his beloved wife of fifty-one years, Cathy Castleman Greene settled in Maringouin, Louisiana, between the bayous and raised five children there: Holland, Craig, Jason, Ryan, and Boyd; and

WHEREAS, Thomas A. "Tom" Greene's humble beginnings brought him from the bayous to the highlands along the Mississippi River to represent the people of Louisiana where he served as state senator representing Senate District 17; and

WHEREAS, Thomas A. "Tom" Greene, a practicing veterinarian by trade, had never sought an elected office before, but yet in 1992, he defeated a veteran lawmaker in a runoff for the Louisiana Senate with fifty-one percent of the vote; and

WHEREAS, he subsequently won reelection four years later in 1995, capturing fifty-eight percent of the vote; and

WHEREAS, he represented District 17 in the Louisiana Senate from 1992 to 2000 where he served as chairman of the Senate Committee on Education and was one of the first lawmakers at the Louisiana State Capitol to champion the broad expansion of school choice; and

WHEREAS, his efforts in the Louisiana Senate resulted in new standards of school accountability for parents and more rigorous academic benchmarks for students; and

WHEREAS, he loved the people of Louisiana and fought tirelessly to make this state a better place for future generations to come; and

WHEREAS, Thomas A. "Tom" Greene was a true public servant and after his two terms in the Louisiana Senate, he entered the race for governor in 1999, surprising political observers by filing on the last day of qualifying; and

WHEREAS, running on a platform of improving education across Louisiana by expanding school choice, pursuing robust economic development strategy, and instituting a higher ethical standard for elected officials, Thomas A. "Tom" Greene's campaign emphasized how an engaged executive with fresh ideas could usher in a new era of prosperity for the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, while thousands of Louisianians rallied behind him and supported him as a candidate for governor at the ballot box, he ultimately finished third in the primary; and

WHEREAS, Thomas A. "Tom" Greene returned to the community of Livonia which welcomed him home where he continued his veterinary practice; and

WHEREAS, rooted in a belief that "life's about relationships and none greater than knowing our Lord", Thomas A. "Tom" Greene's legacy demonstrates that he truly dedicated his life to helping and serving others; and

WHEREAS, while humbled by the accolades and recognition he received throughout his lifetime, Thomas A. "Tom" Greene's most incredible and cherished reward was his role

as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend; and

WHEREAS, Thomas A. "Tom" Greene, as patriarch and anchor, succeeded in keeping his family grounded in their values and giving them an appreciation of what is truly important in life; and

WHEREAS, knowing that Thomas A. "Tom" Greene was a man with an unshakable Christian faith serves as a source of comfort to his family; and

WHEREAS, Thomas A. "Tom" Greene's legacy will continue to live on through his family, his community, this state, and beyond; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his daughter, Meredith Claire, and granddaughter, Jamie, and is survived by his wife, Cathy; children, Holland (Breux), Craig (Kristen), Jason (Leigh), Ryan (Bonnie), and Boyd (Meagan); twenty-one grandchildren; and a host of extended family members and friends.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Thomas A. "Tom" Greene, husband, father, grandfather, friend, legislator, and community leader who set an extraordinary standard of graciousness and good citizenship for all to emulate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his wife, Cathy Castleman Greene, and children, Holland, Craig, Jason, Ryan, and Boyd.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES