

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 77

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of Vincent C. Marsala, PhD, former chancellor of Louisiana State University at Shreveport (LSUS), and to note his outstanding career in education.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing of Dr. Vincent John Carmelo Marsala, an extraordinary scholar, teacher, mentor, and academic administrator; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Vincent Marsala was a founding member of the faculty of LSUS, a community college that evolved into a two-year associate degree program in 1965 as a branch of the LSU System; it later achieved undergraduate degree status in 1972; and

WHEREAS, during his forty-five year tenure at LSUS, Dr. Marsala served as an assistant professor, dean of the College of General Studies, dean of the College of Continuing Education, and Public Service, and as its fourth chancellor from 1995 until his retirement in 2012; and

WHEREAS, a scholar of the highest order, he amassed a plethora of stellar academic credentials; a graduate of St. Matthew High School in Monroe, he matriculated to Louisiana State University before transferring to Northeast State University, now known as University of Louisiana-Monroe, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in General Studies with minors in political science and history; and

WHEREAS, as a cadet in Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC), upon graduation from NSU, Dr. Marsala completed officer candidate training at Fort Benning, Georgia where he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army and placed on active duty; and

WHEREAS, for a time, Dr. Marsala entertained the notion of a career in the military, however, his love of scholarship guided him to more advanced studies; he returned to LSU to earn a master's degree in Government and Sociology in 1962; he later earned a doctorate in Latin American studies with the publication of his historical dissertation entitled, *Sir John Peter Grant, Governor of Jamaica 1866-1874: An Administrative History*; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marsala possessed a brilliant intellect that was conveyed in his extensive expertise in history and government; he contributed, edited, and published research on a variety of subjects that included United States Senator Joseph E. Ransdell (D-LA), Abraham Lincoln, Louisiana Catholic Church History with Dr. Philip Uzee, and Grassroots Constitutionalism-*Shreveport, the South, and the Supreme Law of the Land*; and

WHEREAS, he received the highly sought after Fulbright Award for a group study project on Costa Rica entitled, *The Social Context of Crisis in Central America*; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marsala also received the President's Award by 100 Business Men and Women of America, was named a Distinguished Fellow of the Louisiana Government Leadership Institute, and was listed in the Directory of Scholars and Specialists in Third World Studies; and

WHEREAS, respected among his contemporaries, Dr. Marsala was often called upon to speak before professional associations and present scholarly analyses such as, *Causes of Socio-Political Unrest in Central America, Revolution in Central America, Corruption and Scandal in Louisiana Politics, The U.S. Constitution-200 Years Strong, Racism-A Personal Statement, Italian Settlements in North Louisiana, and Louisiana-The Seamy Side of Democracy Revisited*; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marsala was honored for his administrative achievements and community service with selection as Administrator of the Year by the Louisiana Association of Educational Office Personnel and receipt of the first Pilot of the Year Award by the LSUS Alumni Association, being an honoree of the Gingerbread House Toast and Roast, and with recognition by Junior Achievement of North Louisiana as a Laureate of the North Louisiana Business Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, civic minded, Dr. Marsala served his community with election to the Caddo Parish Commission, appointment to the Consortium for Educational Research and

Technology of North Louisiana, and in 1994, appointment to the Governor's Higher Education Commission for the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, numerous nonprofit organizations benefitted from his service as an officer and board member of the Willis-Knighton Health System, the Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, K-12 Alliance for Education, the Bossier Chamber of Commerce, KDAQ Public Radio, University Club, Inner City Entrepreneurial Institute, the National Conference for Community and Justice, the Norwela Council of Boy Scouts of America, Shreveport Regional Arts Council, Pierremont Oaks Tennis Club, and the Committee of 100-Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, while at LSUS as a professor of history, Dr. Marsala taught Louisiana history, Louisiana government, and Latin American history; and

WHEREAS, upon retirement, Vincent and Carol Ann Marsala were dual recipients of the Loyalty Award from the LSUS Alumni Association, an award presented to retiring faculty who had played a strategic role in the advancement of the university; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Vincent Marsala felt a deep and abiding connection to LSUS and the thousands of students he taught, advised, and mentored throughout his lengthy career; he bore witness to the positive impact that higher education can make on the future of an individual, and he will always be remembered for his kindness, honesty, and scholarship by generations of students and faculty; and

WHEREAS, in April of 1959, Vincent married the love of his life, his college sweetheart, Carol Ann Goodrum, and together they forged a world of their own making filled with affection and travel to far-off destinations; they had celebrated fifty-eight years of matrimony until his passing on December 13, 2017; they were blessed with a daughter, Shawne Christy Marsala.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the passing of renowned administrator and academic, Dr. Vincent C. Marsala, former chancellor of LSU-Shreveport.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby note the years of exemplary service he performed for the advancement of scholarship in Louisiana.

**SCR NO. 77**

**ENROLLED**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his widow, Carol Ann Marsala.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES