

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Francis V. "Pappy" Landry.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens of Louisiana learned of the death of Francis V. "Pappy" Landry on October 30, 2018, at the age of ninety-four; and

WHEREAS, he was born in Milton, Louisiana, where his love of Cajun family heritage began, and while his life's journeys took him to Houston, Algiers, Ennis, and back to Houston; his heart always drew him back to his Cajun roots, living most of his life in Lafayette; and

WHEREAS, it was in his childhood years in Vermilion Parish where many of his cherished lifelong friendships were established and blood relationships strengthened through shared hardship; and

WHEREAS, Francis served in the United States Navy in World War II as a torpedoman second-class and was honorably discharged in 1945; after his discharge, he attended SLI where he was a member of the TKP fraternity and the boxing team, and participated in other organizations; and

WHEREAS, in 1946, he met the love of his life, Billie DeJean, while he was a patient at St. Anne's Infirmary in Lafayette, and she provided care for him as a nurse's aide; and

WHEREAS, in 1948, Francis went to work for the Southern Pacific Railroad, a career that would last some forty years, starting as a fireman when steam locomotives were still in operation; he was named union local chairman, a position where he represented fellow employees as his career progressed; and he transitioned to diesel engineer, and was eventually promoted to road foreman of engines; and

WHEREAS, it was during this time that he was given the nickname "Pappy" and

with the promotion came job relocation, first to Ennis, Texas, then to Houston, then finally back to his homeland - Cajun Country - Lafayette; his expertise was recognized nationally and he became a rules-and-training officer, with jurisdiction from New Orleans to San Francisco, retiring from the Southern Pacific at fifty-nine years of age; and

WHEREAS, not simply one to enjoy retirement, he entered the realm of politics, where he, with his wife at his side, walked the entire district, attending Mass every day during the campaign, which led to a victory by the slightest of margins, twenty-four votes; his popularity for no nonsense fiscal responsibility showed that in 1988, he polled ahead of all other candidates that were considering running for mayor; however, Pappy was not finished with the job he started out to do – ensure that the people of District 1 were getting what they deserved; and

WHEREAS, among Pappy's accomplishments were grand-scale improvements to Brown Park, numerous road and drainage projects, and responsibility for securing initial funding for the I-10/Louisiana Avenue interchange; and

WHEREAS, throughout his three terms he was able to bring the Northside, which had been woefully neglected, into being the center of resurgence, benefiting Lafayette as a whole, and as City Councilman, he also served as liaison to Canada, France, England, and Belgium, and traveled there several times; his fluency in French served him well in diplomatic relations with those countries; and he prided himself in being the liaison to the Parks and Recreation Department where he was involved heavily in Special Olympics; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, after his retirement, Pappy returned to Vermilion Parish where he and Billie built a cottage along the Vermilion River aptly named "Chalet Pont Flotant", which means House by the Floating Bridge; he became more involved in the American Legion Post 69, where he served as chaplain from 2000 until 2018; and he was also a member of the prestigious 40 and 8 Veterans organization; and

WHEREAS, Pappy was a loving son, husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather; and he and Billie raised seven children, sixteen grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren as their strong faith, coupled with constant prayer and a Marian Devotion served as their sense of comfort which kept them grounded in God's will, and provided a fitting example for their children and friends; and

WHEREAS, Pappy was a member of the Knights of Columbus and the St. Genevieve Usher Society, while his wife served in the Catholic Daughters for forty years; their main parental objective was to ensure all of their children were provided a Catholic education, made possible by selfless sacrifices on their part; and

WHEREAS, Pappy was preceded in death by his parents, Romuald and Estelle Bordeaux Landry; his sister, Nona Landry Bonin; his daughter, Billie Frances "Sue" Landry, and his son, Bryan Layne Landry; and

WHEREAS, Pappy is survived by his wife of seventy years, Billie DeJean Landry; sons, Terry and wife Penny, Dean and wife Dena, and Kent and wife Michelle; and daughters Karyn and husband Larry Wagner, and Laurie and husband Larry Singletary; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of men like Francis V. "Pappy" Landry who use their considerable talents and resources to help create a better place to live for future generations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Francis V. "Pappy" Landry, records for posterity his outstanding achievements, and extends enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that he will forever bring to the Lafayette community, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Francis V. "Pappy" Landry.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE