

2022 First Extraordinary Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY SENATORS CATHEY AND MORRIS

CONDOLENCES. Expresses sincere condolences upon the death of former Louisiana State Senator Willie E. Crain Sr.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the  
3 passing of former Louisiana State Senator, Willie Eugene Crain Sr., to acknowledge  
4 his lifelong commitment to public service, and to note his many contributions made  
5 on behalf of the state of Louisiana.

6 WHEREAS, it is with great sorrow of spirits and sadness of hearts that the members  
7 of the Louisiana Senate learned of the passing of former Louisiana State Senator Willie  
8 Eugene Crain Sr., at the age of seventy-nine, on February 12, 2022; and

9 WHEREAS, the middle child of twelve children, Willie Crain was born on  
10 November 7, 1942, to his loving parents, Edward, a farmer and Baptist preacher, and Gussie  
11 Lee Crain; and

12 WHEREAS, he was a born leader and his achievements began at a young age; he was  
13 the Captain of the Oak Grove Fighting Tigers football team, an All-District Linebacker, and  
14 was named Mr. Oak Grove High School; and

15 WHEREAS, in addition to high school extracurricular activities, Willie Crain worked  
16 for KWCL Radio Station in Oak Grove as a disc jockey, where he met the love of his life,  
17 Dorothy Fuller; and

18 WHEREAS, after graduating from Oak Grove High School, Willie Crain married

1 Dorothy Fuller, enlisted in the United States Air Force, and moved across the globe to his  
2 duty station in Pakistan to serve as a sergeant in the intelligence division; and

3 WHEREAS, while serving his country, he pursued higher education at Centenary  
4 College, Louisiana Tech University, and Northeast Louisiana University, now known as the  
5 University of Louisiana at Monroe; and

6 WHEREAS, Dorothy and Willie Crain eventually settled in Monroe, Louisiana,  
7 where their five children were raised and he began his career in the automobile business, first  
8 opening his own leasing company and then his own dealership, Crain  
9 Chevrolet-Olds-Pontiac, in Rayville, Louisiana; and

10 WHEREAS, Willie Crain was an active member of his community and served  
11 tirelessly for the benefit of others; and

12 WHEREAS, he was a member of the Scottish Rite and the Bayou Desiard Optimist  
13 Club where he served as president; he was a longtime, faithful member of Lakeshore Baptist  
14 Church where he taught Sunday School to the youth for many years; he also coached many  
15 of his children's sports teams and proudly served as the NLU, now ULM, Athletic Booster  
16 Club President and was a very colorful commentator for the football radio broadcast; and

17 WHEREAS, from his humble beginnings and throughout his life, Willie Crain's drive  
18 to succeed was guided by his servant's heart; and

19 WHEREAS, his political career began when he was elected as a police juror for  
20 Ouachita Parish, where he served as jury president, and during his tenure on the police jury,  
21 he was responsible for creating the East Ouachita Recreation District and countless other  
22 advancements for Ouachita Parish; and

23 WHEREAS, in 1988, Willie Crain became the Louisiana State Senator for District  
24 33; he was a visionary and it was his thoughtfulness, intelligence, and charisma that helped  
25 him successfully navigate the legislative process like no other at the time; and

26 WHEREAS, he served on several committees during his first term and as a freshman  
27 senator was selected to be the chairman of the Senate Committee on Local and Municipal  
28 Affairs; and

29 WHEREAS, Willie Crain was instrumental in enacting legislation that secured  
30 funding for countless projects across the state, including the ULM Library, Forsythe

1 Extension, the Monroe-West Monroe Convention & Visitors Bureau, and the Louisiana  
2 Cotton Museum; and

3 WHEREAS, his influence while serving in the Senate was tremendous and he  
4 cherished the honor of being selected "Legislator of the Year" on many occasions; and

5 WHEREAS, to put it simply, Willie Crain did a lot of good for a lot of people and  
6 his positive impact on Louisiana, especially in Senate District 33, will be felt for generations  
7 to come; and

8 WHEREAS, when his time in the Louisiana Senate came to an end, Willie Crain  
9 founded Louisiana Consulting and Planning and worked diligently as a consultant to obtain  
10 funding for municipalities and rural areas of Northeast Louisiana; and

11 WHEREAS, Willie Crain leaves behind an incredible legacy of a successful  
12 businessman and devoted public servant, but his greatest legacy of all is his family to whom  
13 he taught the importance of kindness, compassion, leadership, service, hard work, family,  
14 and faith; and

15 WHEREAS, Willie Eugene Crain Sr. was preceded in death by his wife of fifty-two  
16 years, Dorothy Fuller Crain; daughter, Traci Crain Cleveland; parents, Edward and Gussie  
17 Lee Crain; brothers, Mack Crain and Frank Crain; sisters, Janett Wingo, and Linda Finley;  
18 father- and mother-in-law, R.E. and Claudine Prine Fuller; brothers- and sister-in-law, Billy  
19 Fuller, Clyde Fuller, and Jeanette Fuller Hale; and

20 WHEREAS, left to cherish his memory are his sons, Gene Crain and wife, Missy,  
21 and Scott Crain and wife, Mandy; daughters, Tammy Crain Waldrop and Tana Higdon and  
22 husband, Creg; son-in-law, David Cleveland; thirteen grandchildren; eleven  
23 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews; and

24 WHEREAS, Willie Crain was a loving father to Tammy Crain Waldrop, our friend  
25 and Senate Researcher and special condolences are extended to Tammy and her family; and

26 WHEREAS, Willie Eugene Crain Sr. was larger than life and leaves behind a  
27 tremendous legacy as a devoted family man, businessman, and public servant and he will be  
28 forever missed by all those who knew and loved him.

29 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
30 does hereby extend its deepest and most profound condolences to the family of Willie

1 Eugene Crain Sr., acknowledge his lifelong commitment to public service, and note his  
2 many contributions made on behalf of the state of Louisiana.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
4 family of Willie E. Crain Sr.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Michelle Ridge.

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DIGEST

SR 8 Original

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Cathey

Expresses condolences upon the death of former State Senator Willie Eugene Crain Sr.