

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 196

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Ray Gene Thompson and Rita Doughty Thompson upon the celebration of their sixtieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, Ray Gene Thompson and Rita Doughty Thompson were married on July 24, 1952, in Natchez, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the Thompsons met at Jena High School and their love has followed them for sixty years through Tulane University, the United States Air Force, the Louisiana Jaycees, and numerous other civic and professional endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have moved twenty-one times over twenty-four years, but they have called Jena and then Bossier City home for the past thirty-four years; and

WHEREAS, Ray is the son of Rowe and Gladys Thompson, and Rita is the daughter of Luther Ray "Pete" and Gertrude Doughty; and

WHEREAS, Ray honorably served in the United States Air Force; his career included deployment to Vietnam, where he flew F-100s, he was an instructor at the USAF Academy, and he was commandant of the USAF ROTC program at LSU in Baton Rouge before retiring with the rank of Colonel; and

WHEREAS, Rita served her family, church, and community in numerous ways over the years, including serving as president of officers wives clubs, and for many years as the executive secretary of the Louisiana Jaycees; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have three children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, their first child, Starla Kay Thompson Lawrence, born December 27, 1956, is married to Dr. Scott Lawrence, M.D., and they reside in Tyler, Texas; they have four children, Alicia Brooke Lawrence Finley, wife of Aaron Finley and mother of Ray and

Rita's two great-grandchildren, Benjamin Finley and Hazel June Finley, Heather Lawrence Looney, wife of Robert Looney, Hannah Lawrence, and Maddie Rose Lawrence; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Thompsons' second child is Ray Gene Thompson, Jr., born November 21, 1958, husband of Jenna McClure Thompson and father of one son, Robert "Chase" Thompson; and

WHEREAS, Ray and Rita Thompson's third child is Jefferson Rowe Thompson, born March 10, 1965, and married to Toni Hurst Thompson; their two children are Lillie Thompson and Rowe Thompson, who is named in honor of his great-grandfather, Rowe Wilson Thompson; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have enjoyed a life together filled with music, dancing, fishing, laughter, and love; and

WHEREAS, Ray and Rita Thompsons' greatest accomplishments are embodied in their children and more evidently in their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, in all of whom they take great pride and love and who love them in return in immeasurable magnitude.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Ray Gene Thompson and Rita Doughty Thompson upon the celebration of their sixtieth wedding anniversary, does hereby express enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor they bring to their family, friends, and community and the state of Louisiana, and does hereby extend very best wishes to this wonderful couple for continued happiness and richest blessings as they enjoy their future years together.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Ray Gene and Rita Doughty Thompson.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE