

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 63

BY REPRESENTATIVES MORENO, ABRAHAM, ABRAMSON, ADAMS, AMEDEE, ANDERS, ARMES, BACALA, BAGLEY, BAGNERIS, BARRAS, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, BISHOP, BOUIE, BROADWATER, CHAD BROWN, TERRY BROWN, CARMODY, CARPENTER, GARY CARTER, ROBBY CARTER, STEVE CARTER, CHANEY, CONNICK, COUSSAN, COX, CROMER, DANAHAY, DAVIS, DEVILLIER, DWIGHT, EDMONDS, EMERSON, FALCONER, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, GLOVER, GUINN, HALL, JIMMY HARRIS, LANCE HARRIS, HAVARD, HAZEL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILFERTY, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HORTON, HOWARD, HUNTER, HUVAL, IVEY, JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, MIKE JOHNSON, ROBERT JOHNSON, JONES, NANCY LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LOPINTO, LYONS, MACK, MAGEE, MARCELLE, MCFARLAND, MIGUEZ, DUSTIN MILLER, GREGORY MILLER, MONTOUCET, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, NORTON, PEARSON, PIERRE, POPE, PRICE, PUGH, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHRODER, SEABAUGH, SHADOIN, SIMON, SMITH, STOKES, TALBOT, THIBAUT, WHITE, WILLMOTT, AND ZERINGUE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Will Smith, former defensive end for the New Orleans Saints.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the tragic and untimely passing of Will Smith on Saturday, April 9, 2016, at the age of thirty-four; and

WHEREAS, Will Smith was born in Queens, New York; showing his exceptional athletic talent at a young age, Mr. Smith was named a *USA Today* All-American and earned a scholarship offer from Ohio State University; and

WHEREAS, he started for the Buckeyes' 2002 national championship team and was voted a team captain for the 2003 team that won the Fiesta Bowl; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was selected in the first round of the 2004 NFL Draft by the New Orleans Saints; and

WHEREAS, he was voted a team captain for the Saints five times; he exhibited tremendous technique and tenacity as number 91 on the Saints football team; he was an eight-year starter, and he finished his career as the Saints' fourth all-time sack leader with 67.5 total sacks; and WHEREAS, he will forever be remembered as one of the best defenders in Saints history; he was a Pro Bowl player in 2006 and considered by many to be the dominant defensive lineman on the 2009 Super Bowl Championship team; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was a proud Louisianan, and he made New Orleans his home after his retirement from football; he was greatly respected for his work in the community and was heavily involved with his foundation, "Where There's a Will There's a Way"; and

WHEREAS, the tragic loss of Will Smith is magnified by the fact that we are only left to imagine the contributions he might have made to his fellow citizens had his life not been so untimely ended; and

WHEREAS, Will Smith deserves honor and recognition and a sincere measure of posthumous gratitude for the great joy he brought to his family, friends, teammates, coaches, and countless fans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith's survivors include his wife, Racquel, and his children; and

WHEREAS, although the passing of Will Smith has left a tremendous void in his community and in the state of Louisiana, his memory shall live forever in the minds and hearts of all who knew and loved him and whose lives were touched by this phenomenal athlete and gentleman.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the untimely and tragic passing of Will Smith, former defensive end for the New Orleans Saints; does hereby recognize his outstanding achievements and singular contributions; does hereby record for posterity his extraordinary gifts and talents both on and off the football field; and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for his legacy that will forever be a source of great pride for his family, friends, the New Orleans Saints, the city of New Orleans, and the entire state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Will Smith.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE