

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 92

BY REPRESENTATIVES DOVE, GAROFALO, ST. GERMAIN, WHITNEY, AND HARRISON AND SENATOR CHABERT AND REPRESENTATIVES ABRAMSON, ADAMS, ANDERS, ARMES, ARNOLD, BADON, BARRAS, BARROW, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, STUART BISHOP, WESLEY BISHOP, BROADWATER, BROSSETT, BROWN, BURFORD, HENRY BURNS, TIM BURNS, BURRELL, CARMODY, CARTER, CHAMPAGNE, CHANEY, CONNICK, COX, CROMER, DANAHAY, DIXON, EDWARDS, FANNIN, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GEYMAN, GISCLAIR, GREENE, GUILLORY, GUINN, HARRIS, HAVARD, HAZEL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HONORE, HOWARD, HUNTER, HUVAL, IVEY, GIROD JACKSON, KATRINA JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JOHNSON, JONES, KLECKLEY, LAMBERT, NANCY LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LOPINTO, LORUSSO, MACK, MILLER, MONToucET, MORENO, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, NORTON, ORTEGO, PEARSON, PIERRE, PONTI, POPE, PRICE, PUGH, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, RITCHIE, ROBIDEAUX, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHRODER, SEABAUGH, SHADOIN, SIMON, SMITH, STOKES, TALBOT, THIBAUT, THIERRY, THOMPSON, ALFRED WILLIAMS, PATRICK WILLIAMS, AND WILLMOTT AND SENATORS ADLEY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD, AND WHITE

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the Louisiana Legislature upon the untimely and unexpected
3 death of Michael Christopher Voisin from Houma, Louisiana, advocate and
4 spokesperson for the Louisiana seafood industry and the coastal fishing community.

5 WHEREAS, Michael Christopher Voisin, born into the family of a sixth-generation
6 oyster family and raised in Torrance, California, upon graduation from Torrance High
7 School, could not resist the allure of South Louisiana so he moved with his father, Ernest
8 Voisin, to Houma, Louisiana, to help his father return to the oyster business that his father
9 had left when he moved to California, thereby becoming a seventh-generation oysterman;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, in Houma, Mike met the love of his life, Sarah Theriot, from Theriot,
12 Louisiana, married her in 1975 and as they spent more than forty years together living a life
13 where their family was more important than anything else in their shared lives, they became
14 the parents of six children, Kevin, Gregory, Amy, Sally, Sandy, and Terrance Conrad; and
15 the grandparents of fourteen grandchildren; and

1 WHEREAS, Mike's father, Ernest, established Motivaitt Seafood in Houma, with
2 Mike assisting in every aspect of the business from driving the boat to hauling the oysters,
3 to running the plant until finally deciding that running the plant and the office and being the
4 face of the business was where he would excel while his twin brother, Steve, managed the
5 oyster beds, boats, and harvest; and

6 WHEREAS, from his position in the front office, and in imitation of his father's
7 public service, Mike began stepping out beyond the oyster and seafood processing business
8 and into a more public arena where he eventually became the face and voice of the Louisiana
9 seafood industry and grew into one of the strongest advocates for the Gulf of Mexico
10 seafood industry throughout the nation; and

11 WHEREAS, in his efforts to step out beyond just his own personal business, Mike
12 Voisin served on and chaired many other seafood related entities, including the Louisiana
13 Oyster Dealers and Growers Association, the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation,
14 the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference, the Louisiana Restaurant Association, the
15 Southeastern Fisheries Association, the Louisiana Seafood Processors Council, the Gulf
16 Oyster Industry Council, the National Fisheries Institute, and the Molluscan Shellfish
17 Institute of North America; and

18 WHEREAS, Mike also was called upon to serve his state, his industry, and his region
19 through participation on governmental entities supportive of the seafood industry and in
20 doing so, he was instrumental in the creation of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and
21 Marketing Board, for which he served as the original chairman; he helped create the
22 Louisiana Oyster Task Force to bolster specifically the oyster industry within the larger Gulf
23 seafood industry and to enable oyster industry unity and communications; he also served on
24 the National Fish and Seafood Promotion Council, the National Shellfish Pollution Indicator
25 Program, the Louisiana Oyster Lease Damage Evaluation Board, and Governor's Advisory
26 Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration, and Conservation, and most recently, he
27 was appointed by Governor Bobby Jindal to serve on the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries
28 Commission where he was serving as vice chair at the time of his death; and

29 WHEREAS, in addition to service to the seafood industry of Louisiana, the Gulf
30 states, and the nation, Mike was active in his service to the city of Houma and Terrebonne
31 Parish where he served on the Terrebonne Parish Economic Development Authority, the

1 Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce, the South Louisiana Economic Council, the
2 Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, and served for many years on, and as chair
3 of, the Terrebonne General Medical Center Board of Commissioners, serving once again as
4 chair at the time of his death; and

5 WHEREAS, Mike was also active in the academic community where he served as
6 a board member for the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, was on the LSU Marine
7 and Coastal Fisheries Advisory Board, was an advisory member for the Nicholls State
8 University College of Business and for the John Folse Culinary School at Nicholls State, and
9 in December of 2012, Mike was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Commerce from Nicholls
10 State University in recognition of his efforts as ". . . an industry leader, working closely with
11 academics, local and state legislators, governors, congressional members and White House
12 officials."; and

13 WHEREAS, Mike was also a strong and active leader in his life in the Church of
14 Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, where he served in many capacities, including Bishop
15 of the Thibodaux congregation from 1996 through 2001, Branch President for the Larose
16 Branch from 2005 to 2006, Stake High Councilor from 2006 to 2007, and most recently as
17 High Priest Group Leader; and

18 WHEREAS, although Mike was definitely "the man in the arena", always stepping
19 forward to actively confront "challenges" rather than wait for someone else to rise to the
20 occasion, he will be remembered more for the type of man that he was, a gentle man; a
21 caring friend and partner; a strong but calm man particularly in the face of acrimony and
22 controversy; a passionate man, passionate about his family, about his industry, about his
23 state, and about his friends; he was a man respected and honored by the many, many people
24 with whom he came into contact; a man trusted for his word and the fact that he was never
25 underhanded or deceitful in his dealings with other people, even people of differing
26 perspectives; and

27 WHEREAS, Mike was always the first person to step up to help other people, people
28 in his industry, in his state, and just people who needed help; not only did Mike step forward
29 to represent and promote the seafood and oyster industries and to work tirelessly for disaster
30 recovery assistance and need recognition in the state of Louisiana but he reached out to those
31 industries in other states because he genuinely believed that working together they would

1 be more successful than working separately or in competition and in furtherance of that
2 principle, Mike instituted an annual trip to Washington, D.C., coordinated by the Gulf Oyster
3 Industry Council, dubbed "Walk the Hill" where members of the Gulf oyster industry spent
4 a week meeting with members of congress and congressional aides to discuss the state of the
5 oyster industry and the needs of the industry, and, of course, to share in the enjoyment of the
6 oyster product; and

7 WHEREAS, Mike was not only giving to his industry he was also, through his
8 church, very active in disaster recovery efforts on an individual basis through church mission
9 work in the cleaning and rebuilding of peoples homes lost or damaged by hurricanes; and

10 WHEREAS, Mike was well-known and well respected across the state, the Gulf
11 region, and across the country for his calm but passionate and insistent voice on behalf of
12 the state and industry that he loved and gave so much to, so well-known and respected that
13 people came from all over the country to his funeral in Houma to show their respect and to
14 share with each other their stories and their memories, including their overall assessment that
15 Mike's passing leaves a huge void and that Mike's shoes will be very difficult shoes to fill,
16 that it will take several people to even start to attend to the many, many things that Mike did
17 so readily and so happily during his life.

18 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
19 express its condolences upon the untimely and unexpected death of Michael Christopher
20 Voisin from Houma, Louisiana, advocate and spokesperson for the Louisiana seafood
21 industry and the coastal fishing community.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE