

2018 Third Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 14

REPRESENTATIVES LEGER, BOUIE, GARY CARTER, DUPLESSIS, AND JIMMY
HARRIS

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Felicia Kahn.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Louisiana House of Representatives have learned of the death of Felicia Kahn on June 21, 2018, at the age of ninety-one; and

WHEREAS, Felicia Kahn was a political activist and social justice advocate; a lifelong Democrat, she remained actively involved in politics and the women's rights movement in Louisiana until her death; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kahn was born on July 11, 1926, only six years after the nineteenth amendment granted American women the right to vote; she grew up in New Orleans and, after graduating from Isidore Newman School, she attended Newcomb College where she earned a degree in sociology; and

WHEREAS, as a student, she volunteered with the League of Women Voters of New Orleans, helping register women to vote; after graduating, she worked for the city's welfare department and could see firsthand systemic problems stemming from segregation; she supported the integration of the league and joined the league in lobbying for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment; and

WHEREAS, she served as the league's president in the late 1960s and was especially interested in expanding voter access, ensuring polls were open at daybreak so working people could vote early; and

WHEREAS, she later became actively involved in partisan politics, helping generations of women in politics at every level, from the U.S. Senate and the New Orleans City Council to the Orleans Parish School Board; she was a volunteer for Moon Landrieu's campaign for mayor of New Orleans in 1970; she also worked for Congresswoman Lindy Boggs; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, she worked with the National Women's Political Caucus to encourage women to attend the Democratic convention; that same year, she won a seat on the Democratic State Central Committee backed by Mayor Landrieu and the New Orleans Coalition; this was among the highest offices women in New Orleans sought at the time; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kahn joined Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign in 1976 and was appointed to the convention's Rules Committee; later, in 2010, Ms. Kahn revived the Independent Women's Organization, after a period of inactivity, and became its president at age eighty-four; and

WHEREAS, her tenacity and drive were unyielding and her notable accomplishments included being the second oldest delegate to the 2016 Democratic Convention; she missed only one convention since 1976, often serving as a delegate; in 2016, she was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Louisiana Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS, the many contributions Felicia Kahn made to women in politics and the Democratic Party in New Orleans and the state of Louisiana reflect a purpose-filled life; and

WHEREAS, Felicia Kahn is survived by her children, Charles N. "Chip" Kahn, III, Elizabeth Kahn, and Felicia Kahn Michelson; brother, Richard Schornstein; and three grandchildren.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express condolences upon the death of Felicia Kahn and does hereby recognize and record Ms. Kahn's major contributions to her community and her state during a lifetime of advocacy and commitment to democracy and social justice.

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES