HLS 17RS-3147 ORIGINAL

2017 Regular Session

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 151

BY REPRESENTATIVE ANDERS

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences upon the death of Al Ater, who formerly served as a member of the La. House of Representatives and as secretary of state

A RESOLUTION

2	To express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Alan Ray "Al" Ater, who
3	formerly served as a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives and
4	secretary of state.
5	WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the
6	Louisiana House of Representatives have learned of the death of Alan Ray "Al" Ater on
7	Sunday, May 21, 2017, at the age of sixty-three; and
8	WHEREAS, a native of Decatur, Illinois, and a longtime resident of Ferriday,
9	Louisiana, Mr. Ater was a respected and admired individual who made a tremendous impact
10	on this state; and
11	WHEREAS, Al Ater was born on December 15, 1953, as the youngest of the five
12	children of Donald Edward Ater and the former Ruth Lavonne Chapman; his family moved
13	to Louisiana, and he graduated in 1971 from Huntington High School in Ferriday, and then
14	attended Northwestern State University in Natchitoches; and
15	WHEREAS, first and foremost, Al Ater was a farmer and steward of the land; his
16	Lakeland Planting Company farmed corn, cotton, soybeans, and rice in several parishes of
17	northeast Louisiana; and
18	WHEREAS, in 1984, Al Ater was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives,
19	where he served until 1992; he used every opportunity as an able and productive legislator
20	to serve the people of Catahoula, Concordia, and Tensas parishes and all of his fellow
21	citizens in an honorable and dedicated manner; and

1	WHEREAS, as the state representative for District No. 21, Mr. Ater served diligently
2	as a member of several committees, including the House Committee on Agriculture, the
3	House Committee on Enrollment, the House Committee on House and Governmental
4	Affairs, the House Committee on Ways and Means, and the House Committee on
5	Transportation, Highways and Public Works, of which he served as vice chairman; he also
6	served on the House Legislative Services Council; and
7	WHEREAS, opting not to run for reelection after his second term in the legislature,
8	Mr. Ater returned to the private sector; in 2001, he was named Secretary of State Fox
9	McKeithen's first assistant; he then worked as first deputy in the Department of Insurance
10	for a year before returning to the secretary of state's office; in 2005, following Mr.
11	McKeithen's death, Mr. Ater served as secretary of state; and
12	WHEREAS, Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita struck the state while Mr. Ater
13	served in this office, and he was widely praised for his handling of complex election issues
14	in the aftermath of these historic storms; and
15	WHEREAS, in 2009, Mr. Ater was deservingly recognized for his accomplishments
16	and contributions as a public servant when he was inducted into the Louisiana Political
17	Museum and Hall of Fame, and the following year, he retired from public service in order
18	to focus on his primary passions of farming and family; and
19	WHEREAS, throughout the course of his life and career, Mr. Ater generously shared
20	his time, talents, and expertise through his work with the Louisiana Tourism Development
21	Commission, the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs, the Concordia Parish
22	Farm Bureau, Catalyst Energy in Vidalia, the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement
23	System, the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Second Injury Board, the International
24	Association of Corporation Administrators, and the National Association of Secretaries of
25	State; and
26	WHEREAS, Mr. Ater was preceded in death by his parents, Donald Edward and
27	Lavonne Ater, and his sister, Kay Ater Goeggle; he is survived by his wife of thirty-two
28	years, Susie Beard Ater; his children, Whitney Lauren Ater, Thomas Ater, and Elliott Ater;
29	his grandsons, Soren Riker, Kai Riker, and Benton Ater; his granddaughters, Maya Fuentes

HLS 17RS-3147

ORIGINAL
HR NO. 151

1 and Graciela Fuentes; his siblings, Donald Ater, Lynette Ater Tanner, and Edward Ater; and

2 numerous nieces and nephews; and

3

4

5

6

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

to the family of Al Ater.

WHEREAS, the death of Mr. Ater has left a great void and created a genuine sense of sorrow in all who knew him, including the members of the House family, all of whom

mourn the loss of this wonderful man who served his state and this institution so well; and WHEREAS, Mr. Ater will never be forgotten, leaves a rich and unique legacy, and

7 is greatly missed by the many citizens whose lives he touched.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Alan Ray "Al" Ater; does hereby recognize and record for posterity his notable accomplishments and singular contributions during his eight-year tenure as a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives and his distinguished service as secretary of state; and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for this wonderful man who will forever bring pride and honor to his family, his community, and his state.

## **DIGEST**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 151 Original 2017 Regular Session Anders

Expresses condolences upon the death of Al Ater, who formerly served as a member of the La. House of Representatives and as secretary of state.