

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 22

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Daniel Thomas "Tom" Murchison of Natchitoches.

WHEREAS, it was with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana learned of the death of Daniel Thomas "Tom" Murchison of Natchitoches on Saturday, January 7, 2012, at the age of seventy-five; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison was born on October 26, 1936, in Memphis, Tennessee, the first child of Dan and Margaret Murchison; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison spent his childhood in Sikeston, Missouri, and graduated from Sikeston High School in 1955 before moving to Jackson, Tennessee, and receiving his bachelor of arts degree from Union University in 1959; and

WHEREAS, while studying at Union University, Mr. Murchison met the love of his life, Vicki Jean Dillow, who he married on September 10, 1960, and with whom he shared the rest of his life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison served his country with six months of active service in the United States Army and six years in the Army Reserve, obtaining the rank of Captain in the Judge Advocate General Corps; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison graduated from Tulane University School of Law in 1962, where he distinguished himself and earned many accolades, including graduating first in class in the common law curriculum, being inducted into the Order of the Coif, serving as managing editor of and authoring an article in the *Tulane Law Review*, and winning the Edwin Mahoney Award for Excellence in Criminal Law; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison had a long and productive career as an attorney, beginning with his work at Watson, Williams and Brittain in Natchitoches, which later

changed its name to Watson, Murchison, Crews, Arthur and Corkern, and ending at Murchison and Murchison, LLC, which he established with his son, Tommy, and Robert Owsley; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison served the people of Natchitoches effectively as assistant city attorney from 1966 until 1973, and then city attorney from 1973 until 2004, in addition to serving the people of Louisiana as a voting member of the Louisiana State Law Institute for many years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison found an outlet to share his wisdom and expertise in teaching real estate, business law, and successions and trusts at Northwestern State University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison's talent and dedication led the Young Lawyer Division of the Louisiana State Bar Association to name him the "Outstanding Young Lawyer of Louisiana" in 1973, while his giving spirit, which he channeled to the people of Louisiana through pro bono services, merited his recognition by both Kisatchie Legal Services and the Louisiana State Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison was a member of many legal societies, including the Louisiana State Bar Association, where he served on the Law Reform Committee, Natchitoches Parish Bar Association, American Judicature Society, American College of Probate Counsel, and Kisatchie Legal Services, where he served on the board of directors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison was a member of and officer for many civic organizations, including the Natchitoches Parish Chamber of Commerce, Louisiana Jaycees, the Lions Club, and the Northwestern State University Booster Club; he was named Man of the Year in 1985 by the Natchitoches Parish Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being an accomplished lawyer and public servant, Mr. Tom Murchison was a man of faith; he was ordained a deacon in 1985; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, Mr. Murchison and his wife, Vicki, became members of First Baptist Church, where he served many years as a youth Sunday School teacher, cofounded the Couples Too class, and was involved in Youth Ministries, coaching basketball and track, and assisting with the Royal Ambassador program; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison was a baseball enthusiast whose love of and self-identification with the St. Louis Cardinals, who won thirteen pennants and eight World Series during his lifetime, was so strong that he often found himself in fights with the team's manager and considered members of the team to be his friends; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison's love of baseball and his sons led him to be a fixture of local youth baseball and to cofound Natchitoches Area Dixie Youth, Inc., through which he coached many teams and established a legacy as a statistician; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious life, Mr. Murchison developed and maintained many friendships with people he met during childhood, college, law school, and while practicing law, attending church, and sporting events; his amiable personality allowed him to make friends with almost anyone, especially those who would listen to his stories; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison was as well known for speaking at length about his children and grandchildren, the Civil War, the Bible, and baseball as he was known for his bow tie and ever-present cigar; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being a patriot, lawyer, teacher, coach, deacon, and dear friend of many, Mr. Murchison was a family man who prioritized his wife and children above all else; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison is survived by his wife, Vicki, three sons, Daniel T. "Tommy" Murchison, Jr., and his wife Gretchen, Timothy Glenn "Tim" Murchison and William Tyler Murchison and his wife Sally; grandchildren, Garrett Wayne Murchison, Daniel Jacob Murchison, Katherine Victoria Murchison, Anna Grace Murchison, Ava Margaret Murchison, Henry Ian Murchison, and Farrah Elizabeth Murchison; sisters, Dr. Lynne Murchison and Judy Kirby and her husband James; brother-in-law, Kip Dillow and his wife Linda; nieces, Amie Ramsey, Chandra Dillow, and Summer Bacon; nephews, Matthew Kirby, Andrew Kirby, and Kipper Dillow; and his dear friend, whom he considered family, Patricia Payne; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Murchison is also survived and will be missed by his beloved work family at Murchison & Murchison, LLC, especially the women of the firm, Jenny Settle, Lynn Pierson, Sarah O'Bannon, Rachel Blanchard, and Hilary Goff; and

WHEREAS, faith, family, and friends were the most important things in Mr. Murchison's life, and he never lost any of them; and

WHEREAS, with the death of Mr. Murchison, Louisiana has lost one of her finest citizens, a gentleman of many gifts and talents, who has left an indelible mark on the lives of those he touched; and

WHEREAS, although the death of Tom Murchison has left a tremendous void in his community, his memory shall live forever in the minds and hearts of all who loved him and all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

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 Daniel Thomas "Tom" Murchison of Natchitoches, does hereby record for posterity his outstanding accomplishments and singular contributions, and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that this wonderful man will forever bring to his family, friends, community, state, and nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Daniel Thomas "Tom" Murchison.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES