

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 232

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Justin R. Ehrenwerth and to posthumously commend his contributions to Louisiana and the Gulf Coast.

WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of Representatives has learned of the death of Justin Reid Ehrenwerth; and

WHEREAS, Justin Reid Ehrenwerth was born on September 5, 1978, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and was one of two children born to David H. Ehrenwerth and Charlene "Kandy" Reidbord Ehrenwerth; and

WHEREAS, Justin was a devoted and loving husband to his wife, Dana Dupré, and father to sons, Louis and Charles; he was a loving older brother to his sister, Lindsey Ehrenwerth Herman; and

WHEREAS, Justin graduated summa cum laude from Colby College, received master's degrees in philosophy, politics, and economics from the University of Oxford, and earned a juris doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania Law School; and

WHEREAS, early in his distinguished career, Justin worked in the nonprofit sector at various organizations including the University of Pittsburgh Institute of Politics, Northern California Grantmakers, the Pennsylvania League of Young Voters, and the American Jewish Committee; he also served as a Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Teaching Fellow and Coro Fellow in Public Affairs; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ehrenwerth served in the Department of Commerce's office of general counsel, where he assisted in the management of more than three hundred lawyers in fourteen offices; while there, he received the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration General Counsel's Award for Excellence for his work related to the response to the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ehrenwerth served as assistant counsel to President Barack Obama, where he spearheaded the BP *Deepwater Horizon* litigation for the White House with the Department of Justice; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ehrenwerth was selected as the inaugural executive director of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, which was charged with directing billions of dollars to restore the Gulf Coast's economy and environment and adapt to the rising threat of climate change; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ehrenwerth's next role was as chief of staff to the U.S. Deputy Secretary of Commerce, where he assisted in policy, budgeting, and strategic planning; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 Mr. Ehrenwerth was appointed to serve as the second president and chief executive officer of The Water Institute of the Gulf, which is an independent, nonprofit applied research institution that was established in 2011 to advance our knowledge of the natural and human aspects of deltaic, coastal, and water management systems and develop integrated methods to address environmental and societal challenges; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ehrenwerth served as a member of both the board of directors of Touro Synagogue and Louisiana's Committee of 100 for Economic Development; he also served the Anti-Defamation League's South Central Region, where he sat as an active voice on the Civil Rights Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ehrenwerth, who called Louisiana home since 2013, was a nationally recognized expert in coastal policy and applied science; he worked tirelessly, in both his personal and professional lives, to make a more resilient Gulf Coast and stronger Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Justin cherished walks with his sons along the levee, attending Jazz Fest with his family, traveling, playing the harmonica, and watching his hometown Pittsburgh Steelers; he leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife, children, father, and a host of friends, colleagues, and communities he served through his passionate efforts to protect the Gulf Coast; he will be deeply missed, but his legacy will live on in his inspiring life's work.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Justin R. Ehrenwerth and posthumously commends him for his contributions to Louisiana and the Gulf Coast and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that his family and friends find comfort in their shared memory of his beautiful life.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES