

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 237

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Robert B. "Bob" Anderson.

WHEREAS, the members of the House of Representatives were saddened to learn of the death on April 28, 2019, of Robert B. "Bob" Anderson, at the age of eighty-five; and

WHEREAS, born in Sebastopol, Mississippi, to R.A. and Elizabeth Black Anderson, Bob graduated from Calhoun City High School in Calhoun City, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism from Louisiana State University; and

WHEREAS, he served two years in the U.S. Army, teaching English to Puerto Rican recruits at Fort Buchanan; after being discharged, he moved to Monroe and began his impressive journalistic career: he worked as a sports writer, and later, sports editor, at the *Monroe Morning World* (now known as *The News-Star*); thereafter, while pursuing his graduate degree, he was a reporter for the *Baton Rouge Morning Advocate* (now known as *The Advocate*); and

WHEREAS, he returned to Monroe in 1961 to serve as sports information director and assistant professor of journalism at Northeast Louisiana State College (now known as the University of Louisiana at Monroe); he worked at the institution for thirty-three years and earned the title "The Dean" by setting the standard in his profession and holding a variety of positions, including news bureau director, advisor to the university newspaper and yearbook, director of the letterman's club, and assistant athletics director; and

WHEREAS, when Bob retired from the school in 1994, he had served as sports information director longer than anyone else in the same position at any Louisiana university and served longer than any other member of the school's athletic staff; and

WHEREAS, in his retirement, he served as an aide to Congressman John Cooksey for six years, including four years as press secretary; he also wrote and published *Indian Territory: The Story of ULM Athletics*; and

WHEREAS, he eventually returned to the university's sports information staff and served as a volunteer editor of the L Club newsletter; and

WHEREAS, Bob was the recipient of many awards and accolades: induction into the Southland Conference Hall of Fame and University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) Hall of Fame, being named Mr. Louisiana Basketball by the Louisiana Association of Basketball Coaches, a Lifetime Achievement Award awarded by ULM's alumni association, and the Mac Russo Award for Progress and Ideals, and a Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism from the Louisiana Sports Writers Association (LSWA); and

WHEREAS, he was a member of the College Sports Information Directors of America and LSWA; he served as vice president of the Monroe Downtown Optimist Club and, later, as president of the Bayou DeSiard Optimist Club, which awarded him the Optimist of the Year Award; Optimist International honored Bob with the Distinguished President Award; and

WHEREAS, Bob served as a board member and Sunday School teacher at Memorial United Methodist Church, and later, filled the same roles, in addition to chairman of the Mission Committee and a member of Methodist Menders, at First United Methodist Church in Monroe; and

WHEREAS, his love of sports reached a new level when his grandchildren became active in athletics; attending or listening to the broadcast of every game he could, Bob often submitted stories about their games to local newspapers, beating their own reporters to the punch; and

WHEREAS, left to cherish the memory of Robert B. "Bob" Anderson are his loving wife of fifty-six years, Nike Poulos Anderson; sons, Nick, and his wife Cheree, and Tom, and his wife Natsuki; grandsons, Andrew and James; granddaughters, Kaili and Kina; brother, Jim, and his wife Meg; and several cousins and nieces; and

WHEREAS, Robert B. "Bob" Anderson was beloved and respected by faculty, staff, students, and alumni during his tenure; he will be missed, but his legacy will live on.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express condolences on the death of Robert B. "Bob" Anderson; does hereby express deepest sympathies at the loss of this trailblazer in college athletics; and does hereby offer prayers and hopes of comfort to those who mourn his passing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Robert B. "Bob" Anderson.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES