

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 246

BY REPRESENTATIVES BROADWATER, ROBBY CARTER, STEVE CARTER,
MACK, POPE, AND PUGH

A RESOLUTION

To express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of 21st Judicial District Court and Louisiana 1st Circuit Court of Appeal former judge Ernest G. "Ernie" Drake, Jr.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the House of Representatives learned of the death on Wednesday, June 7, 2017, of Ernest G. "Ernie" Drake, Jr., former judge on the 21st Judicial District Court and the Louisiana 1st Circuit Court of Appeal; and

WHEREAS, Judge Ernie Drake was widely admired and respected for his fair and equitable application of the law and was well known for his "tough on crime" stance; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Drake earned a bachelor's degree from Southeastern Louisiana University and a juris doctorate from Tulane University Law School in 1974; upon his graduation from law school, he joined the firm of Allen B. Pierson, Jr., where he worked for six years before forming his own law firm, with his sister and several other local attorneys, which had offices on West Pine Street in downtown Ponchatoula; Mr. Drake practiced law for twenty-four years until his 1988 election to the 21st Judicial District Court, Division G; and

WHEREAS, Ernie Drake married the love of his life, Linda Williamson, and the couple raised two beautiful children and were blessed with two grandchildren; Ernie Drake was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Ponchatoula and was active in many local groups; and

WHEREAS, elected in 1998 to the 21st Judicial District, Judge Drake served on that bench until 2013, when he was elected to a one-year term on the Louisiana 1st Circuit Court of Appeal; he was reelected in 2014 to a ten-year term but retired in October 2016; and

WHEREAS, as a trial judge, Ernie Drake presided over cases from seat belt ticket violations to first degree murder to the \$30 million CECOS class action suit; he served the citizens of Tangipahoa, Livingston, and St. Helena parishes; and

WHEREAS, those who knew Judge Drake remember his commitment to family, his love of community, and his commitment to local politics; he was a voracious reader and a friend to all, and he expressed great joy in working the campaign trail, where he made new friends and reconnected with lifelong friends; Judge Drake genuinely enjoyed people and his life bespoke his constant search for something new to learn; and

WHEREAS, left to cherish his memory are his loving wife, Linda Williamson Drake; children, Aliska Drake Fuller, and her husband Todd, and Ernest G. Drake, III, and his wife Laura Drake, M.D.; grandchildren, Cameron Fuller and Thomas John Drake; and

WHEREAS, the death of Ernie Drake has left a great void and created an overwhelming sense of sorrow in those who knew him; the impact of the loss of this wonderful man who equitably adjudicated for his community and state is incalculable; and

WHEREAS, Ernie Drake leaves a rich and unique legacy in the execution of the law; he will be greatly missed by all whose lives he touched, and with his passing, Louisiana bids farewell to one of her finest sons.

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 Judge Ernest G. "Ernie" Drake, Jr.; does hereby recognize that his legacy of dedicated service shall forever endure; and does hereby record for posterity the abiding appreciation of the citizens of the state for his extraordinary contributions and achievements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Ernest G. "Ernie" Drake, Jr.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES