

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 38

BY REPRESENTATIVE GAROFALO

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Kenneth Louis Odinet, Sr.

WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of Representatives has learned of the death, on December 30, 2022, of former state representative and pillar of St. Bernard Parish, Kenneth Louis Odinet, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Louis Odinet, Sr., was born in the census-designated area of Arabi in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, on October 9, 1930, and was the youngest of five children born to Bertrand Louis Odinet and Mary Hammel Odinet; he attended Maumus High School and graduated in 1947; and

WHEREAS, after high school, Ken enrolled at Louisiana State University, where he served as the president of the College of Engineering and graduated in 1951 with a bachelor of science degree in petroleum engineering; upon graduating, he received a commission as a 1st Lieutenant in the United States Army and served in combat during the Korean Conflict; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Odinet received the Bronze Star and a Korean Presidential Citation for his military service in Korea; after receiving an honorable discharge, he returned to Louisiana to work as an offshore drilling engineer at Gulf Oil; in 1954, he married Rosemary Popich of Buras, Louisiana, and they had thirteen children together; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Odinet returned to LSU to continue his education and received a master of science in petroleum engineering; after finishing his graduate studies, he worked for several years at Popich Marine Construction, Inc., Ingram Contractors, Inc., and Barnett

Contractors, Inc.; in 1973, he formed his own company, Kenneth L. Odinet and Associates, Inc., providing engineering, project management, and inspection services to the oil and gas and maritime industries; and

WHEREAS, Ken was also incredibly civic-minded and served both St. Bernard Parish and the state of Louisiana with honor for many years; he briefly served as the executive director of the St. Bernard Parish Water and Sewerage Commission before being elected to serve District 103 in the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1987; he considered his twenty years of legislative service, representing St. Bernard Parish and New Orleans East, both an honor and a privilege, and he took great pride in helping his constituents, especially following the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Odinet was a faithful Christian who sought guidance from God in all that he did; he served for many years as an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist and lector at St. Maurice Catholic Church in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Odinet was the recipient of numerous awards and honors throughout his inspiring life; in 1996, he and his wife were recognized by the LSU Board of Supervisors and the LSU Alumni Association for having the greatest number of LSU graduates in a single family; they also received the Order of St. Louis IX Medallion from the Archdiocese of New Orleans for their outstanding service to the church parish; despite these honors, he considered his greatest achievement raising and providing for his thirteen children; and

WHEREAS, Ken is remembered for his unfailing kindness and generous heart; he was always ready and willing to help anyone in need and had a sharp mind and many talents; he leaves to cherish his memory his wife Rosemary; sons, Kenneth, Jr., and his wife Michelle, Nicholas, and his wife Barbara, John, Bertrand, and his wife Leigh Anne, Robert, and his wife Angela, Christopher, and his wife Katherine, and Michael, and his wife Lambertina; daughters, Mary Lynn Baumgartner, and her husband Eric, Jude Chabert, and her husband Scotty, Sr., Amy, Veronica Koclanes, and her husband George, Rebecca Frey, and her husband Keith, and Rosemary "Rodi" Rodriguez, and her husband Ramon; and numerous grandchildren; he will be deeply missed but certainly never forgotten.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Ken Odinet; does hereby recognize his incredible service to St. Bernard Parish, New Orleans East, and the state as a distinguished former member of the Legislature of Louisiana; and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that his family, friends, and loved ones find comfort in their shared memory of his beautiful life.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES