

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 4

BY REPRESENTATIVE SHADOIN

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the untimely death of Wiley Wilson Hilburn, Jr., of Choudrant, Louisiana, noted north Louisiana newspaper columnist, editorial writer, and professor of journalism.

WHEREAS, north Louisiana lost a beloved voice, remembered as "the Mark Twain of Louisiana", and journalism lost one of its treasured local contributors with the January 16, 2014, death of Wiley Hilburn, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Wiley Hilburn, Jr., a native of Ruston, Louisiana, began his long career in journalism as a teenager at *The Ruston Daily Leader*; he devoted over four decades to Louisiana Tech University as chair of the journalism department and director of the news bureau and, after retiring in 2009, was named journalism professor emeritus and Distinguished Alumnus of the College of Liberal Arts; he was also selected to membership in the Louisiana Political Museum and Hall of Fame and for 50 years, until the time of his death, published widely read editorials and a cherished column in Gannett newspapers; and

WHEREAS, throughout his long teaching career, Mr. Hilburn guided numerous students into the profession of journalism, for which he had great respect and love as an important American cultural institution, and he maintained close relationships, both professional and personal, with many of his students whom he had influenced and mentored; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hilburn was widely known as a lover of jokes and as a practical joker who concocted elaborate ruses to confound his victims, seeing also the entertainment value when he was in turn the butt of a good practical joke; and

WHEREAS, there can scarcely be any greater tribute than to be remembered by his many friends, colleagues, readers, and former students as finding "as much intrigue in the lives of everyday people as he did governors and celebrities"; as creating pictures with "words that were his brush strokes ... from the majestic eagle to the melodious mockingbird, from the old-school Louisiana politician to the gathering of old men in a store"; as being "each of us, only better"; whose writing would "cause you to stop and really see something important and needed, something you'd missed, though right in front of your eyes"; and being "a strong and bold voice of contemplation and reason in tumultuous times, a peacemaker, a lover of nature, and a friend to many"; and

WHEREAS, the loss of Wiley Hilburn, Jr., is profoundly felt by his wife, Kate Sartor; children, Anne Marie Hilburn, Kevin Hilburn, and Greg Hilburn and their mother, Ellen LaCroix; his stepdaughter, Jenny O'Driscoll; his brother, Chet Hilburn; his daughters-in-law, Holley Hilburn and Tania Hilburn; his grandchildren, Steven Ledford, William Ledford, Seth Hilburn, and twins Shyla and Shyenne Hilburn, and his mother- and father-in-law, C. Lane and Gloria Sartor.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its condolences to the family of Wiley Wilson Hilburn, Jr., for their great loss.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Wiley Wilson Hilburn, Jr.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES