

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 55

BY REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON

A RESOLUTION

To express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Johnny Joseph Gauthier of Mansura.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Louisiana House of Representatives have learned of the death of Johnny Joseph Gauthier of Mansura on Wednesday, April 12, 2017, at the age of seventy-four; and

WHEREAS, a veteran radio broadcaster in Avoyelles Parish, Johnny Gauthier was a widely respected and admired member of his community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gauthier earned a first class license in radio broadcasting at Elkins Institute of Broadcasting in Dallas, Texas, and his long and highly productive broadcasting career began at KAPB in Marksville in 1964; and

WHEREAS, upon relocating to New Roads, Mr. Gauthier became the station manager and chief engineer with KWRG; he later managed WLBI in Denham Springs and served with distinction as an audio technician with WBRZ in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, as his family grew, Mr. Gauthier moved home to Mansura and worked at Crick Insurance Agency in Pineville for sixteen years, specializing in commercial insurance designed for nursing homes; and

WHEREAS, about twenty-five years ago, Mr. Gauthier's love for broadcasting led him to KLIL in Moreauville; the community enjoyed waking up to the voice of Mr. Gauthier, who was always a wealth of information, particularly with respect to meteorology; for the past fifteen years, he and District Attorney Charles Riddle III chatted on the radio every Thursday morning; and

WHEREAS, thanks in large part to Mr. Gauthier, who played an instrumental role in the station's popularity and success, KLIL was named the Farm and Home Show Radio Station of the Year for two consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his achievements in the professional realm, Mr. Gauthier was a man devoted to his family and his faith, and he also enjoyed spending time in his "man cave" with his historic photos and classic model cars; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gauthier is survived by his wife of fifty-five years, Lydia Shippey Gauthier; his children and their spouses, John Gauthier, Jr., Holly and Bo Smith, Joni Gauthier, Charlie and Sheena Gauthier, Ben Gauthier, and Dale Gauthier; eleven grandchildren; and eleven great-grandchildren; he was preceded in death by his parents, Guy and Pennie Scallan Gauthier; his brothers, Maxie Gauthier and Brian Gauthier; and his granddaughter, Erica Bernard Billiot; and

WHEREAS, with the death of Mr. Gauthier, Louisiana has lost one of her finest citizens, a man who was loved by all whose lives he touched, who leaves behind a rich and unique legacy, and who is profoundly missed; and

WHEREAS, although the death of Mr. Gauthier has left a tremendous void in his community, his memory and his voice shall live forever in the minds and hearts of all who knew and loved him.

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 Johnny Joseph Gauthier of Mansura; does hereby recognize and record for posterity his singular accomplishments and contributions, particularly as a beloved broadcaster; and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the pride, honor, and joy that this extraordinary gentleman will forever bring to his family and friends, the town of Mansura, Avoyelles Parish, and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Johnny Joseph Gauthier.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES