

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

BY SENATORS ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, PRICE, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE AND REPRESENTATIVES ABRAHAM, ABRAMSON, AMEDEE, ANDERS, ARMES, BACALA, BAGLEY, BAGNERIS, BARRAS, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, BISHOP, BOUIE, BRASS, CHAD BROWN, TERRY BROWN, CARMODY, CARPENTER, GARY CARTER, ROBBY CARTER, STEVE CARTER, CHANEY, CONNICK, COUSSAN, COX, CREWS, CROMER, DAVIS, DEVILLIER, DUPLESSIS, DWIGHT, EDMONDS, EMERSON, FALCONER, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, GLOVER, GUINN, HALL, JIMMY HARRIS, LANCE HARRIS, HAVARD, HAZEL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILFERTY, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HORTON, HOWARD, HUNTER, HUVAL, IVEY, JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, JOHNSON, JONES, JORDAN, NANCY LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LYONS, MACK, MAGEE, MARCELLE, MARINO, MCFARLAND, MIGUEZ, DUSTIN MILLER, GREGORY MILLER, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, MUSCARELLO, NORTON, PEARSON, PIERRE, POPE, PUGH, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, SCHEXNAYDER, SEABAUGH, SHADOIN, SIMON, SMITH, STAGNI, STEFANSKI, STOKES, TALBOT, THIBAUT, THOMAS, WHITE, WRIGHT AND ZERINGUE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of

Dr. Billy A. Cannon Sr.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens learned of the death of Dr. Billy A. Cannon Sr. on May 20, 2018, at the age of eighty; and

WHEREAS, William "Billy" Abb Cannon Sr. was born in Philadelphia, Mississippi, on August 2, 1937; and

WHEREAS, his family moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in the 1940s, where he attended Istrouma High School, excelled in sports, and met his high school sweetheart Dorothy "Dot" Dupuy Cannon; and

WHEREAS, he enrolled at Louisiana State University (LSU) in the fall of 1956 and married the love of his life, Dot, on November 23rd that same year; and

WHEREAS, Billy Cannon was an athletic phenom at the time, standing six feet one inch and weighing nearly two hundred pounds; and

WHEREAS, what set him apart was not only his size, but his speed and agility, and he and his teammates were some of the first to begin weight training which added to his strength and made him an unstoppable force on the field; and

WHEREAS, he ran track and played football at LSU and was an outstanding student maintaining a B+ average; and

WHEREAS, Billy Cannon is known for wearing Number 20 and for the "Halloween Run", an eighty-nine yard punt return against the Ole Miss Rebels in Tiger Stadium in 1958; and

WHEREAS, that year, he and his teammates, whom he adored, went undefeated and won LSU's first national championship; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, Billy Cannon won the Heisman Trophy and is the only player in the history of LSU to have achieved that distinction; and

WHEREAS, he went on to play professional football for eleven years for the Houston Oilers, Oakland Raiders, and Kansas City Chiefs, and was the first player to garner all-pro honors in two different positions; and

WHEREAS, during the off seasons, he attended the Dental School at Loyola of Chicago and the University of Tennessee, earning both a Doctor of Dental Surgery and Master of Science; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being an outstanding athlete, Billy Cannon was a wonderful father; and

WHEREAS, he and Dot had five children and to his family, he was simply "Daddy"; and

WHEREAS, Billy Cannon was a brilliant historian, had a mind like a steel trap, and a wicked sense of humor; and

WHEREAS, he knew how to have a good time and could be a rascal at times, but more importantly, he had many friends and was extremely loyal to them; and

WHEREAS, Billy Cannon also worked at the Louisiana State Penitentiary as a dentist for twenty-two years, retiring in January 2018; and

WHEREAS, he helped reform a failing medical and dental program at the prison, and, although he was not blind to inmates' crimes, he believed every inmate had worth and

deserved kindness; and

WHEREAS, Billy Cannon believed in humanity and lobbied to get the pharmacy back to the prison when it was decentralized and took weeks to get the medications the inmates needed; and

WHEREAS, he also had a love of thoroughbred horses and purchased his first one in California in the early 1960s; and

WHEREAS, having purchased many over the years, he enjoyed raising them at his farm in St. Francisville, Louisiana, and would often sit in a lounge chair outside of the stall and help the mares deliver their foals; and

WHEREAS, Billy A Cannon Sr. is survived by his loving wife, Dorothy "Dot" Cannon; children, Terri Cannon Byrd, Gina Cannon McWilliams, Dara Cannon Kelsoe, Billy Cannon Jr., and Bunnie Cannon; eight grandchildren, Kimberly Kelsoe Becker, Cannon McWilliams, Laci McWilliams Gentry, Cassie Cannon Graham, Jessie Cannon Black, Abbie Cannon, Mandie Cannon, and Billie Cannon; and eight great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Harvey W. Cannon Sr. and Virgie Savell Cannon; and his older brother, Harvey W. Cannon Jr.; and

WHEREAS, LSU meant more to Billy Cannon than anyone could ever know; it was not the awards or the acknowledgments on the football field, it was that his life was intertwined with the purple and gold; and

WHEREAS, with the death of Dr. Billy A. Cannon Sr., Louisiana has lost one of its finest sons, a quintessential southern gentleman who loved the Louisiana State University fans and family, and whose accomplishments have left an indelible mark upon the Baton Rouge community, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, his death has left a substantial void in the Baton Rouge community and a sense of loss in the citizens whose lives he touched, and his memory shall live forever in the minds and hearts of all those who knew and loved this remarkable gentleman.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Dr. Billy A. Cannon Sr., record for posterity his outstanding achievements, and extend enduring appreciation for the

tremendous pride and honor that he will forever bring to the Baton Rouge and LSU communities, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Dr. Billy A. Cannon Sr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES