SLS 182ES-49 **ORIGINAL**

2018 Second Extraordinary Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY SENATOR MILKOVICH

COMMENDATIONS. Commends former Louisiana state Senator Bill Keith on his support and endorsement of teaching creationism in the public schools.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To commend former Louisiana state Senator Bill Keith on his support and endorsement of
3	teaching creationism in the public schools.
4	WHEREAS, Bill Keith served as a Louisiana state senator from 1980 until the
5	expiration of his term in 1984, representing District Thirty-nine in Caddo Parish; and
6	WHEREAS, born in 1934 in Oklahoma, Bill Keith was a journalist who worked for
7	the now defunct Shreveport Journal as an investigative reporter; and
8	WHEREAS, upon being elected to the Louisiana Senate as a resident of
9	Mooringsport, Louisiana, in Caddo Parish, Bill Keith, a democrat, was a particular
10	proponent of a state law requiring balanced treatment in the instruction of creationism and
11	evolution in public schools; and
12	WHEREAS, Mr. Keith received national attention for legislation he introduced
13	which required equal emphasis in public school science instruction to creation science and
14	to evolution; and
15	WHEREAS, Bill Keith recalled that his interest in the matter developed in 1978
16	when his then thirteen year old son came home from school to report that a teacher had
17	ridiculed the teen's belief in God as the creator of human life; and
18	WHEREAS, the bill passed both houses of the legislature, was signed by then

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Governor David Treen, and was entitled the "Balanced Treatment for Creation-Science and

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Evolution-Science Act"; and
WHEREAS, the act required that scientific evidence for creation-science, the view
of abrupt appearance of organisms in the fossil records, whenever related material on
evolution was presented in science class instruction; and
WHEREAS, throughout his legislative career, Bill Keith courageously advocated for
the view that the Biblical belief that God created the entire world and human life should be
taught in Louisiana's schools; and
WHEREAS, Mr. Keith left Louisiana shortly after his term ended and moved to east
Texas where he published a weekly newspaper in Marshall, Texas, and he began his career
as a writer of fiction and nonfiction, including his 2009 book The Commissioner: A True
Story of Deceit, Dishonor, and Death, a study of Shreveport Public Safety Commissioner
George W. D'Artois who held office in the city for decades until his death in 1977; and
WHEREAS, Bill Keith bravely argued that a belief in the God of the Bible and the
message of redemption offered through Christ should not be withheld from the school
children of Louisiana and the United States, as these beliefs are foundational for a just and
moral society in this generation and the generations to come.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
commend former Louisiana state Senator Bill Keith on his support and endorsement of
teaching creationism in the public schools.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Bill
Keith of Longview, Texas.

DIGEST

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Commends former Louisiana state Senator Bill Keith on his support and endorsement of teaching creationism in the public schools.

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