

2018 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

BY SENATOR CLAITOR

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of former Judge Lewis Doherty III.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of former
3 judge, World War II veteran, servant of the public in the justice system, and loving
4 husband, father, and grandfather, Lewis S. Doherty III of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

5 WHEREAS, Lewis Doherty III died on December 31, 2017, bringing to a close a life
6 filled with family and friends and marked by a commitment to his faith, integrity, equality,
7 and justice; and

8 WHEREAS, Lewis S. Doherty III was born on June 30, 1926, to Lewis S. Doherty
9 II and Olive Ruth Guyton Doherty in Baton Rouge, where he was raised and educated in
10 public schools; and

11 WHEREAS, after high school graduation, Judge Doherty attended Louisiana State
12 University until World War II and his subsequent enlistment in the United States Navy
13 interrupted his educational pursuits; and

14 WHEREAS, Lewis Doherty served in the Pacific theater of the war and briefly, with
15 the forces occupying Japan at the end of the war; and

16 WHEREAS, after his patriotic service during World War II, Judge Doherty returned
17 to Louisiana State University to continue his education, to again be a proud member of
18 Kappa Alpha fraternity, and to earn a bachelor of arts degree before entering law school and

1 graduating from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center with a juris doctor degree, ready for a career
2 serving the people of Baton Rouge through participation in the justice system; and

3 WHEREAS, Lewis Doherty was married to his beloved wife, Arden Allen Doherty
4 for sixty years, until her death and left to mourn Judge Doherty's death are the couple's three
5 wonderful children, Allen, Lewis Doherty III, and Allison, as well as two grandsons and two
6 great-grandchildren; and

7 WHEREAS, upon graduation from law school, Lewis Doherty began the private
8 practice of law in Baton Rouge and one year later, he was elected to the city council and
9 was, at the time the youngest member ever elected in a city-wide election; and

10 WHEREAS, Judge Doherty served his term and did not seek reelection, but four
11 years later, in 1960, he ran for a seat on the city court bench, won the election and was sworn
12 in on January 1, 1961; and

13 WHEREAS, Lewis Doherty was reelected to the city court bench and in 1966 he was
14 elected to serve as judge for the Nineteenth Judicial District Court, a court based in Baton
15 Rouge; and

16 WHEREAS, Judge Doherty was reelected to serve as judge three times, and on
17 December 31, 1983, he retired from the bench, but his retirement was not to be an idle time
18 for him, nor was his career as a judge to end; and

19 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Supreme Court appointed Lewis Doherty to the First
20 Circuit Court of Appeals and he served briefly on the Louisiana Supreme Court, both ad hoc
21 appointments to complete terms of a previous judge and justice, respectively; and

22 WHEREAS, with his ad hoc appointment to the Louisiana Supreme Court, Judge
23 Doherty had served at all four levels of the judiciary in Louisiana, city court, district court,
24 appellate court, and the supreme court, an accomplishment of which he was justly proud; and

25 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Supreme Court also chose Judge Doherty to serve ad hoc
26 or pro tem terms in twenty-four different parishes, another achievement of which he was
27 quite pleased; and

28 WHEREAS, Judge Doherty served as the chairman of the mass torts committee
29 which was formed to prepare a booklet for use by judges throughout the state who were
30 presented with mass tort litigation; and

1 WHEREAS, Lewis Doherty enjoyed all of these judicial experiences and he believed
2 that there were very few who had as interesting and satisfying a career in the judiciary; and

3 WHEREAS, following his retirement from public service, Judge Doherty joined the
4 law firm of Kean Miller as "of counsel" and he practiced law there for seven years; and

5 WHEREAS, Judge Doherty served in one more judicial capacity during his
6 illustrious career, that of hearing officer for the Louisiana State Contractors Licensing Board,
7 where he served for ten additional years before his voluntary retirement; and

8 WHEREAS, in addition to his legal career and his commitment to his family, Lewis
9 Doherty was a man of faith and served his church, Trinity Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge,
10 as senior warden of the vestry, president of its school board, and as a lay reader; and

11 WHEREAS, Judge Doherty was a quiet civil rights advocate, and he was the first city
12 court judge to desegregate his courtroom in January 1961, more than three years before the
13 passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which mandated desegregation in all public
14 accommodations, evidencing his strongly held belief in the equality of the races; and

15 WHEREAS, Lewis Doherty was active in many civic and fraternal organizations and
16 served as president of the Capital Area Kiwanis Club, the Baton Rouge Chamber of
17 Commerce, the Baton Rouge Country Club and judge advocate for the Louisiana American
18 Legion, and, additionally, he was a member of St. James Lodge number forty-seven, a thirty-
19 second degree Mason and chairman of the Baton Rouge Assembly; while enjoying his
20 lifelong pursuit of playing golf, and traveling with his beloved wife, Arden; and

21 WHEREAS, as a member of the "greatest generation", Lewis S. Doherty III served
22 his country during World War II, was a leader in his community and his church, was a
23 devoted husband and father and did admirably attend to all the responsibilities expected of
24 this most unique of American generations.

25 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
26 express sincere condolences upon the death of former judge, World War II veteran, servant
27 of the public in the justice system and loving husband, father, and grandfather, Lewis S.
28 Doherty III of Baton Rouge.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
30 Doherty children, Lewis, Allen, and Allison.

