

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

BY SENATOR CLAITOR AND REPRESENTATIVE FOIL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, after his patriotic service during World War II, Judge Doherty returned to Louisiana State University to continue his education, to again be a proud member of Kappa Alpha fraternity, and to earn a bachelor of arts degree before entering law school and graduating from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center with a juris doctor degree, ready for a career serving the people of Baton Rouge through participation in the justice system; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, in addition to his legal career and his commitment to his family, Lewis Doherty was a man of faith and served his church, Trinity Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge,

as senior warden of the vestry, president of its school board, and as a lay reader; and

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

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

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

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES