

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

BY SENATOR CROWE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Ralph and Dorothy Richards of Slidell, Louisiana, as the longest married couple living in Louisiana in 2011, with the celebration of their eighty-first wedding anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is altogether fitting that the Legislature of Louisiana recognize and honor Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Richards, who have been united in holy wedlock for the greater part of a century, on a lifetime spent together; two lives shared as one; and

WHEREAS, on February 28, 1930, Ralph Richards married Dorothy "Dottie" Renz in New Orleans, and for eighty-one years they have made and shared a vast number of memories and milestones, always together; and

WHEREAS, the Richardses fondly remember that fateful day when they met in 1929, at the Carousel amusement ride in City Park; Ralph spied Dottie riding one of the "flying horses;" he then mustered up the courage to ask if he may treat her to another ride on the Carousel; thus began a romance that has withstood the test of time; and

WHEREAS, Dottie recalled that she thought he was a "big spender" while Ralph remarked that the cost of the ride was the best nickel he ever spent; and

WHEREAS, for over eighty years, they have shared much, endured hardship, and have set aside their own individual wants in favor of the needs of the family; two lives forged together with one heart; and

WHEREAS, Ralph and Dottie began their married life at the beginning of the Great Depression, both were in their late teens and were just making their way in the world; and

WHEREAS, they shared many common interests, such as a love of seafood (especially oysters), a favorite song (*Let Me Call You Sweetheart*) a fondness for martinis at dinner time, plus a strong, well-fortified affection for each other; and

WHEREAS, Ralph and Dottie Richards have lived rewarding lives, Ralph built a successful green coffee brokerage business and Dottie kept a warm and loving home; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Richards share a host of other accomplishments, but none has produced a greater sense of pride than their two children, a daughter, Dorothy, and a son, Ralph Jr., eight grandchildren, and nineteen great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the Richardses loved to travel and have visited many exciting places throughout the United States and around the world and toured exotic locales, such as Cuba and South America; and

WHEREAS, their commitment remains a beautiful example of how lifelong love and devotion manifests into a purposeful life shared with another and serves as an inspiration to all; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Richards were also honored by a fete on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2011, held at the Governor's Mansion, attended by Governor Bobby Jindal, First Lady, Supriya Jindal, and close family members; and

WHEREAS, the Richardses were awarded certificates and proclamations from the Governor's Office, the Louisiana Commission on Marriage and Family, and the event sponsor, the Louisiana Family Forum, that named the pair as the longest married couple in Louisiana for 2011, and inducted them into the Family Forum's Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Richards received "anniversary presents" from the host organizations that included gift baskets and a russet and creme colored quilt sewn in a diamond pattern by the Wasted Women Quilt Guild; and

WHEREAS, the strong bonds of their extraordinary relationship are centered in the steadfast love they share for one another and in the faith they maintain in God; a faith that has sustained them through many trials and tribulations and that faith remains a constant comfort to them each day.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Ralph and Dorothy Richards upon the occasion of being named the longest married couple in Louisiana for 2011, and upon celebration of their eighty-first wedding anniversary, February 28, 2011.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that Ralph and Dorothy Richards bring to their family, friends, church, community, and state, and does hereby

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extend its very best wishes to this wonderful couple for continued happiness and richest blessings as they enjoy a healthy future together.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Richards.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES