

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 25

BY SENATORS ALARIO, ADLEY, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate J. C. "Sonny" Gilbert, distinguished legislator, farmer, and businessman, on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday and to honor and celebrate his lifetime of outstanding contributions to the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it is altogether fitting and proper to honor J. C. "Sonny" Gilbert as an active and productive citizen of the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Jess Carr "Sonny" Gilbert was born on March 6, 1922, to parents, Jess and Fannie Adams Gilbert; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from Wisner High School, attended Northeast Junior College, now known as the University of Louisiana at Monroe, and Louisiana State University; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, he left LSU to enlist in the United States Army and served in the European and African theaters of war; and

WHEREAS, after his military service, Sonny Gilbert settled in Sicily Island, married Barbara Jane Peck in 1946, and began his family business of farming and has remained in Catahoula Parish ever since; and

WHEREAS, his extensive family includes a daughter, Barbara Peck Gilbert Haigh, and a son, J. C. Gilbert III, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the Gilbert family has a lengthy history in the area and many ties to local politics and state government; and

WHEREAS, in 1956, Sonny Gilbert added to that legacy and began a career of public service that would span twenty-six years with his election to the Catahoula Parish Police Jury; and

WHEREAS, Sonny Gilbert bears the prestige of service in both houses of the Louisiana Legislature serving with distinction under four governors, Earl K. Long, Jimmie H. Davis, John J. McKeithen, and Edwin W. Edwards; and

WHEREAS, Sonny Gilbert served three consecutive terms in the Louisiana State Senate from 1960 until 1972, having represented the parishes of Franklin, Richland, and Catahoula with service as chairman of the Agriculture Committee and as a member of the Transportation and Public Works Committee; and

WHEREAS, he was elected for a single term to the House of Representatives in 1972, from the newly reapportioned Twenty-First District representing Catahoula and Concordia parishes; and

WHEREAS, while in the legislature, Sonny Gilbert was a vocal supporter of farming interests and agricultural initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Sonny Gilbert concluded his public service with service on the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission from 1976 until 1982, and serving as its chairman for his last two years; and

WHEREAS, Sonny Gilbert has made many contributions to the local economic landscape as a cotton and rice farmer, rancher, and founding director of the Jonesville Bank and Trust, now known as the Southern Heritage State Bank, that has grown to nine branches that serve the parishes of Catahoula, LaSalle, and Rapides; and

WHEREAS, after the passing of his first wife, Barbara Jane Peck Gilbert, he was married to the vivacious, highly competent, longtime Senate staffer, Delmar "DeeDee" Fulmer, and widowed a second time in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Sonny Gilbert possesses a variety of broad interests that include membership in the LSU Foundation, Rotary International, American Legion, Farm Bureau, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and as a freemason; and

WHEREAS, Sonny Gilbert is recognized for his outstanding public service, his many accomplishments, his tireless spirit, and his unwavering dedication to the public good.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby congratulate J. C. "Sonny" Gilbert on the auspicious occasion of his ninetieth birthday, March 6, 2012, and does hereby commend him for his many beneficial contributions to the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to J. C. "Sonny" Gilbert.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES