

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29

BY SENATORS JOHN SMITH AND LONG AND REPRESENTATIVE HOWARD

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Robert Eugene "Bobby" Williams Jr. of Florien, Louisiana, upon being named as the fifteenth honoree to be inducted into the prestigious Sabine Hall of Fame on March 27, 2012.

WHEREAS, Bobby Williams is a business entrepreneur and a gracious servant of the community who expresses gratitude for his good fortune by participation in all manner of civic and economic development interests; and

WHEREAS, born in Leesville, on September 23, 1929, Bobby was the eldest child of Robert Sr. and Rena Berel Williams and his birth coincided with the beginnings of the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, his family lived in a log cabin situated on the Mt. Carmel Cut-Off Road with none of the modern amenities of electricity or running water, however with plenty of love and lessons in self-reliance and thrift, the Williams Family survived the hard times; and

WHEREAS, Bobby attended public school and graduated from Florien High School, Class of 1946, at the age of sixteen; and

WHEREAS, eager to make his fortune, he immediately enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps and was soon honorably discharged when it was discovered that he was under age; however, he enlisted again in the United States Army in 1951, served during the Korean Conflict in a detachment that flew radio-controlled airplanes or drones; and after receiving a second honorable discharge, he returned home; and

WHEREAS, knowing that an education was the firm foundation needed for growth, Bobby obtained vocational skills in refrigeration, electronics, and appliance repair while on the G.I. Bill, attended Northwestern State College, now known as Northwestern State University, and taught electronics classes at Sabine Parish Vocational-Technical School; and

WHEREAS, his straight-forward approach and business savvy propelled him forward in many successful endeavors; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, he began his career in earnest and for nearly sixty years Bobby Williams has been at the center of numerous commercial ventures, Williams Brothers Appliance Service, Inc., Wright Shopping Center, Sandy Hill Mall at Fort Polk, Jackson Williams Water Well Services, Williams Bros. Drilling Company, Inc., Louisiana Hayride Productions, National Affiliated Corporation, and National Investors Life Insurance Company, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Williams never lost his affection for aviation; as a licensed pilot, he joined the Louisiana Wing of the Civil Air Patrol; he was a member of Aerial Search and Rescue Operations for the United States Air Force and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel; and he also serves on the Mayor's Committee for Hart Airport in the town of Many; and

WHEREAS, whether the economic times were "boom or bust", Bobby readily performed his civic duty whenever and wherever possible; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Williams' public service began in 1964, when he was first elected as alderman for the Village of Florien and also served as treasurer, then elected to the Sabine Parish School Board in 1977 and served as its president in 1983-1984, named to the Board of Directors of Sabine State Bank in 1989, and appointed to the Western Corridor Commission and El Camino Real East/West Corridor Commission; and

WHEREAS, he continued to serve Sabine Parish as a longtime member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Sabine River Authority, the Sabine River Compact Administration, and the Sabine Parish Sales/Use Tax Commission; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Williams is a proud and valued member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Korean Veterans, plus he is a member and the director of the West Louisiana Veterans Park; and

WHEREAS, he is proud of his fraternal organization achievements as a 32nd degree Mason, with service as Deputy Grand Master of the Eighth Masonic District of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana and as a Shriner; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, Bobby married Lola Jean Lewing and together they have celebrated fifty-nine years of love and devotion with their union blessed by the birth of five children, sixteen grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Williams is a generous man possessing an abundance of interests

and skills who wears the mantle of community service proudly and willingly while extending courtesy to all; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Williams is a capable and successful businessman, yet humbled by the presence of God's grace in his life; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Williams is passionate about many things and is particularly proud of the family-oriented businesses he developed from his own tenacity and hard work; his continued success contributes greatly to the economic strength and well-being of his community and the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Robert Eugene "Bobby" Williams Jr. upon his induction into the Sabine Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby acknowledge a life well spent in the service of his country, his community, and his God.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Robert Eugene "Bobby" Williams Jr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES