

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31

BY SENATOR THOMPSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Theo J. Coenen III.

WHEREAS, it is with great sadness and heavy hearts that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing of this distinguished attorney, counselor, public servant, and community leader, Theo J. Coenen III on April 24, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Theo J. Coenen III was known by his community and his contemporaries as a mentor, a friend, and a tremendous source of knowledge on a variety of issues; and

WHEREAS, at age thirteen, Theo earned the coveted rank of Eagle Scout and embraced the principles of character and service to community and society instilled by the Boy Scouts of America which led to a long life of service; and

WHEREAS, he began his life of serving his community as president of the Key Club at Rayville High School; served as Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 43, president of the NLU Alumni Association and played a significant role in the planning and construction of the Anna Gray Noe Alumni Center; was the organizer and president of Riverfield Day, an initial organizer of the Southern Picking and Grinning Festival; and was an organizer and president of the Original Rhymes Restoration Library Society; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, Theo returned to Rayville, Louisiana, to join his father's law practice and in 1965 he also became the attorney for the Tensas Levee Board, serving in that capacity until 2009; and

WHEREAS, he served as president of the Fifth District Bar Association, and provided legal assistance, counseling, and advice to clients throughout northeast Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Theo was a consummate leader, confidant, community organizer, benefactor, long time civic leader, and public servant, who freely and selflessly gave his time, talents and abilities to serve his fellow man for the betterment of his community and society, and though he was never elected to a public office, he freely served and devoted

time to the organization, resolution, and completion of public and private projects throughout the community, region, and Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, he is remembered for his tireless work ethic as a conscientious attorney and, as a vigorous advocate of every adopted cause, he lived by the principle that "a job worth doing was worth doing well"; and

WHEREAS, he encouraged young men and women to continue their educational pursuits whenever possible and achieve their lifelong goals, regardless of any obstacles blocking their path, and convinced young minds that higher education was the key to opportunity in life and that hard work and diligence placed success within their grasp; and

WHEREAS, he was a lifelong devout and contributing lay leader of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Rayville, Louisiana; he served as an altar boy, choir member, lay minister, and member of the Sacred Heart Mens Club; he was a member of the church Board of Trustees and was instrumental in the planning and building of Flynn Hall; he spearheaded the annual Sacred Heart Men's Club Bar-B-Q fundraiser; and Pope John Paul II appointed him as a Knight in the Order of Saint Gregory for the Shreveport Diocese of the Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS, Theo was a loving, devoted, and dedicated husband of fifty years to his loving wife, Francis Mills Coenen, a cherished father, grandfather and committed brother, uncle, relative, and friend whose love of family was of utmost importance in his life; and

WHEREAS, upon his death the world lost a unique individual who left an indelible mark upon his community and the lives of all those who knew him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana acknowledges a lifetime of achievement and service and does hereby extend condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Theo Coenen III.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his wife, Frances Mills Coenen.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES