

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 44

BY SENATOR JOHNS AND REPRESENTATIVES DANAHAAY, GEYMANN AND
KLECKLEY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of a community activist and public servant, Willie McCullor Landry of Lake Charles, and to celebrate her life of dedication to the youth of Calcasieu Parish.

WHEREAS, it was with deep regret that the Legislature of Louisiana first learned of the passing of Mrs. Willie Landry on June 18, 2014, at the age of ninety-four; and

WHEREAS, Willie Landry was a woman of inordinate strength, integrity, accountability, and drive; she shared these qualities with the children she came to know and love; and her desire to challenge young people to do their very best became her mission and was central to shaping the work ethic and character of a generation; and

WHEREAS, Willie Landry played an integral part in the development of recreational opportunities for the City of Lake Charles Department of Recreation and Parks; she acted as director for the Drew Park facility from 1952 until her retirement in 1983; and whose service and accomplishments advanced physical fitness and athletic programs for area youth for more than three decades; and

WHEREAS, Willie V. McCullor was born in Pleasant Hill on July 3, 1920, to parents James Willie McCullor and Marshey Asaley Allen McCullor; and

WHEREAS, in 1937, Willie made Lake Charles her home and attended McNeese State University; and

WHEREAS, she married Lee Robert Landry and together they strived to establish a loving Christian home and reared a family; and

WHEREAS, Willie Landry was the competitive heart and spirit of the summer programs at Drew Park that attracted participants to the enjoyment of all manner of outdoor activities from badminton to volleyball, and she was enthusiastic about having fun; and

WHEREAS, through her supervisory skills, she shared her love of sports by teaching young people how to enhance their physical abilities and develop a sense of fair play among their peers; her mantra was "know the rules and play the game competitively"; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Landry was also known as a "ping pong champion", finishing in first place many times in the city-wide competition; she was the "spark" for many impassioned inter-park rivalries; and

WHEREAS, Willie Landry was a dynamo of organization; she organized the Senior Olympics and served on its local board, coached girls softball and basketball for the City Recreation League, sponsored Blue Birds, led Camp Fire Girls, and supported the local Parent-Teacher Association (PTA); and

WHEREAS, Willie led by example and demonstrated that good sportsmanship began with self-respect as well as respect for others; and

WHEREAS, to honor her memory and in appreciation of her many contributions, on July 2, 2014, the Lake Charles City Council adopted a resolution that renamed the center at Drew Park in her honor, and, in a ceremony held November 1, 2014, the building was redesignated as the Willie McCullor Landry Recreational Center in recognition of thirty-one years of dedicated public service to local youth; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Landry is survived by her four loving children, Sandra Lee Moore and her husband Nolan, Marsha Irene Chapman and her husband Ted, Dr. Richard Edward Landry and his wife Gaye, and Willie Ruth Mount, who served as mayor of Lake Charles and Louisiana State Senator; and

WHEREAS, Willie Landry is also survived by ten grandchildren, Melissa Moore Ross and her husband Don, Connie Moore Miller and her husband Robert, Tom Moore and his wife Stacey, Julie Moore Miller and her husband Joe, Laurel Landry Carleton and her husband Mark, Wendy Landry Lechtenberg and her husband Keith, Leslie Landry Bradley and her husband Rex, Kelly Lynne Landry, Jessica Chapman Forsyth and her husband Brad, Jared B. Chapman and his wife Erin; and twenty-three great-grandchildren, Emily and Wilhelmina Ross, Connor and Kirby Miller, Thomas, Sandlin and Banks Moore, Dietz, Grayson, and Rosamond Miller, Camille and Richard Carleton, Maddie, Abbie and Callie Lechtenberg, Isabella, Julia and Anna Bradley, Walker, Truett and Cecilia Forsyth, and

Byler and Amelia Chapman; and

WHEREAS, Willie was a lifelong member of First Baptist Church of Lake Charles and served her church as a Sunday school teacher, Training Union director, and as a member of the Women's Missionary Union and the Eastern Star; and

WHEREAS, Willie M. Landry led an exceptional life of inspiration and service to others and shall long be remembered for her compassion, her devotion to family, her commitment to God, her graciousness, her leadership, and her sense of fair play.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of a great woman, Mrs. Willie M. Landry, and especially to her daughter, Willie L. Mount, our friend and colleague.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mrs. Willie M. Landry leaves a commendable legacy of exceptional public service to the city of Lake Charles and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the children of Mrs. Willie M. Landry.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES