

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 44

BY SENATORS MILLS AND BOUDREAUX AND REPRESENTATIVES HUVAL AND
TERRY LANDRY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Pat Huval, famous restaurateur, former mayor of Henderson, Louisiana, proud Cajun, and extraordinary visionary and entrepreneur.

WHEREAS, Patrick Joseph Huval died on January 6, 2018, at the age of eighty-eight in Breaux Bridge, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Huval was born in Henderson, Louisiana, on August 22, 1929, to Tom and Noelie Berard Huval; and

WHEREAS, growing up during the Great Depression "Mr. Pat", as he was known to all, worked hard to help feed and clothe his mother and siblings, as his father had died when he was only six months old; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pat grew up knowing the meaning of hard work and was always one who would take charge as he did when he ended his formal education in the fourth grade in order to work full-time, as his mother continually searched for a full-time job, but could only find odd jobs to support her family; and

WHEREAS, at the tender age of twelve, not yet a teenager, Pat Huval secured his first full-time job working for family friend, George Dupuis, as a clerk in Dupuis' grocery store; and

WHEREAS, when Mr. Pat was eighteen he married Agnes Hebert and, a year later in 1948, they opened a grocery store of their own, beginning the career that would make Pat Huval a household name throughout South Louisiana in the heart of Cajun country, and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the Huvals worked dawn to dusk every day, selling groceries, hamburgers, and crawfish by the sack; and

WHEREAS, to make ends meet, Mr. Pat worked on dredging boats in the evenings after the store closed; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pat and Agnes added crawfish and seafood dishes to their modest fare offered at the grocery store; and

WHEREAS, always careful with their money and focused on saving for the future, the Huvals were able to purchase a local dance hall and restaurant, but in 1952, they sold that business and purchased another building; and

WHEREAS, the second building became home to Pat's Restaurant in Henderson, which soon gained fame as a place where delicious, home-cooked crawfish dishes were the stars of the menu; and

WHEREAS, by the 1960s Pat's Restaurant became a destination for people throughout Louisiana and, eventually, the world and, in addition the dining room was regularly filled to capacity; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1960s, Pat's became a gathering spot for Louisiana politicians as it was near Baton Rouge and everyone loved the crawfish and seafood dishes served in the lively atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, with mentors George Dupuis and Robert Angelle, along with politicians, the then serving Governor John McKeithen and state Senator Paul Hardy, Pat Huval was encouraged to put his energy and natural business acumen to work for the people of Henderson in the political arena; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, having spearheaded the move to incorporate, after the incorporation of Henderson, Louisiana, as a town, Pat Huval ran for mayor and won, serving nearly twenty-two years as the first mayor; and

WHEREAS, Pat Huval served on the board of directors of Farmers-Merchants Bank for over ten years and in the 1990s Governor Edwin Edwards named him to serve on the Atchalafaya Levee Board; and

WHEREAS, Pat and Agnes Huval were dedicated to progress for the little hamlet of Henderson, where most of the roads were dirt or gravel; as mayor he made repairing and upgrading the roads his first priority and, once most of the roads within the town limits were paved, Pat moved on to build a town hall, a local jail and, eventually, a twenty-acre park and established a fire department; and

WHEREAS, Pat and Agnes Huval had four children and they celebrated their

fourteen grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren who were largely their focus in improving the town through civic activities and business enterprises; and

WHEREAS, three of the Huval's children currently work in the restaurant, dance hall known as the Atchafalaya Club, motel, factory, and crawfish peeling plant complex known as "Pat's Fisherman's Wharf" property; and

WHEREAS, Pat Huval's son Harvey said of his father, "he started with practically nothing in his life. He borrowed three hundred dollars to start his business and he became a multimillionaire. We have . . . five businesses and all of them do well"; and

WHEREAS, Pat Huval did not stop at public service, he was known for little acts of kindness and generosity, paying for others' home repairs, subsidizing mortgages, being sure no one in Henderson went hungry, and being in line to assist the local church with what it needed to serve the people; and

WHEREAS, Pat Huval was a man who was dedicated to his family, his town and its citizens, and to establishing a business for his children to carry on; he was an amazing entrepreneur and a visionary who could see his small seafood shack operation becoming a thriving business enterprise for the good of his family and his community; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Joseph Huval will be long remembered as a community leader, a compassionate neighbor, a loving patriarch, a steadfast friend, and an extraordinarily perceptive citizen and businessperson.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere condolences upon the death of Pat Huval, famous restaurateur, former mayor of Henderson, Louisiana, proud Cajun, and extraordinary visionary, and entrepreneur.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Huval children: Harvey, Nancy, Cynthia, and Jude.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES