

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 46

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 express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of Sarah Whalen, former lobbyist and public servant.

WHEREAS, it is with great remorse that the Legislature of Louisiana bids farewell to Sarah Whalen, who shall be remembered for her distinguished career as a successful lobbyist for over thirty years and as an invaluable asset to the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Lee Oldham was born on July 28, 1937, in Como, Mississippi, to parents Margaret and Robert E. Oldham; and

WHEREAS, she began her public service career as an assistant in the executive office during the first administration of Governor Edwin W. Edwards in 1972; a few years later she joined the staff of the newly created Interim Emergency Board; and

WHEREAS, her career as a lobbyist began when it was largely a male-dominated profession; however Sarah gained the respect of her peers for her lobbying acumen and provided outstanding representation for numerous organizations, such as International Gaming Technology, Louisiana Wholesale Food and Tobacco Distributors, Oracle Corporation, Outdoor Advertising Association of Louisiana, River Parish Council, and the Smokeless Tobacco Council; and

WHEREAS, Sarah understood the ways and means of the political process and was as well-versed as anyone in the cast of characters involved in Louisiana's political scene; she could see through the smokescreen and move to the heart of the matter; her work ethic was based on the tenets of honesty, integrity, diligence, and attention to detail; and

WHEREAS, Sarah shall be remembered in the Capitol for her beautiful smile, her southern charm, her thoughtful opinions, and her sound advice; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Whalen was a beauty with a generosity of spirit that enriched the lives of many; it was that spirit, that effervescence, that is best remembered; and

WHEREAS, whether at work or at play, Sarah was always a fierce competitor; she pitted herself against the unruly terrain of the golf links and tennis courts; she loved to dance as long as the music played and after retirement she participated in several ballroom dance competitions; and

WHEREAS, Sarah loved life and enjoyed her leisure time with a singular determination that was legendary; she rarely missed an opportunity for fun, whether sharing a meal with friends or traveling the globe, the whole world was her oyster; and

WHEREAS, Sarah was passionate about social causes, such as women's issues and the plight of underprivileged children; and

WHEREAS, she treated everyone with an equal measure of respect, although she sometimes would sternly critique one's fashion choices; and

WHEREAS, Sarah could be brash, but also focused and funny, intense and intelligent, affectionate and gracious, and somehow all of these traits at the same time; and

WHEREAS, Sarah was a woman of action; she took pride in her role whether it be that of lobbyist, mother, or friend; and

WHEREAS, Sarah valiantly fought the good fight against ovarian cancer for nearly five years with extraordinary grace, strength of will, and faith; she lived each moment of her life fully, always determined to make plans for the future; and

WHEREAS, surrounded by devoted family and friends and blessed with their love and support, Sarah peacefully slipped away from this life to embrace her God on March 10, 2013, a Sunday, a final day of rest after her long and colorful journey; and

WHEREAS, while the loss of this most extraordinary woman will long be felt, she leaves a cache of life's important lessons to hold dear; live well, be proud of your accomplishments, shower others with warmth and laughter, and dance as if no one is watching; and

WHEREAS, the poet, T. R. Moonshadow, wrote ... *"I'll dance all night, I'll dance the pain away, I'll dance until the morning sun graces us with day, I'll dance until I'm numb, until I don't feel anymore, I'll dance until I'm gone and don't remember what I'm dancing for, I'll dance until you love me, I'll dance the rest of my life, I'll dance until you return by the moon's gentle light..."*; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Whalen leaves a lasting testament to all to live life with tenacity, exuberance, timeless love, unfaltering faith, unyielding strength, boundless courage, and a sense of purpose.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its sincere condolences to the family and friends of Sarah Whalen.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Sarah Whalen shall hereby be remembered for her service to the legislative process in Louisiana and for her zest for life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to her sons, Terry and Tracey Whalen.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES