ORIGINAL

2023 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 53

BY SENATORS ALLAIN AND CORTEZ

CONDOLENCES. Expresses sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of Jimmy "Jim" Foster Harris.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of
3	Jimmy "Jim" Foster Harris and to recognize his many outstanding achievements.
4	WHEREAS, it is with tremendous sadness and profound regret that the Legislature
5	of Louisiana has learned of the passing, on May 8, 2023, of Jimmy "Jim" Foster Harris; and
6	WHEREAS, Jim was born on June 8, 1945, in Mountain Grove, Missouri, to Ursel
7	and Foster Harris; and
8	WHEREAS, at the age of thirteen, Jim moved with his family to New Orleans,
9	Louisiana, for two years before settling down in Franklin, Louisiana; and
10	WHEREAS, while still in high school, Jim traveled to Houston to obtain a
11	broadcasting license to fulfill his dream of reporting the news over the airwaves, and landed
12	a job at KFRA-AM radio as a disc jockey and; and
13	WHEREAS, Jim's silky smooth delivery style combined with an ear for the news
14	made him a noted radio journalist as a very young man; and
15	WHEREAS, Jim attended the University of Southwestern Louisiana part-time and
16	continued to sharpen his media skills as the news director for KPEL-AM radio while also
17	serving in the United States Army Reserve for six years; and
18	WHEREAS, Jim's journalistic talent and booming voice led him to a job opportunity

1	at WJBO-AM radio in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he created and hosted the
2	award-winning interview program "Topic Today"; and
3	WHEREAS, in one year as news director at WJBO-AM he garnered eleven
4	Associated Press and United Press International awards; and
5	WHEREAS, Jim's immense talent caught the attention of Louisiana political and
6	public relations icon Gus Weill who offered Jim the position of press secretary for Governor
7	Edwin Edwards' re-election campaign in 1975; and
8	WHEREAS, Jim was responsible for managing Governor Edwin Edwards'
9	relationship with the media and shaping his public image – a challenge well documented in
10	political lore; and
11	WHEREAS, Jim went on to work in a number of roles in the second term of
12	Governor Edwin Edwards, serving in the Department of Transportation and Development
13	and Department of Health and Human Services, and cut his teeth on environmental policy
14	serving on the former Louisiana Environmental Control Commission; and
15	WHEREAS, Jim continued his career in politics and public service as the campaign
16	manager for Lt. Governor Jimmy Fitzmorris' run for governor in 1979 and as Assistant
17	Secretary of the Office of Commerce and Industry for Governor Dave Treen; and
18	WHEREAS, Jim served as the Executive Director of the Louisiana World
19	Exposition, also known as the Louisiana World's Fair, held in New Orleans in 1984,
20	resulting in a huge impact for the city of New Orleans and Louisiana and attracting many
21	visitors showcasing Louisiana's culture, industry, and heritage to the world; and
22	WHEREAS, Jim founded Harris, Fischer & Associates in 1984, which became Harris
23	& Associates in 1986, and finally Harris, DeVille & Associates in 1993, working with
24	Renwick DeVille to grow a two-person firm into a team of over twenty persons managing
25	issues for a client base that includes numerous Fortune 100 companies; and
26	WHEREAS, Harris, DeVille & Associates has provided communications and
27	governmental relations stewardship of billions of dollars of new investments in Louisiana
28	and along the United States Gulf Coast; and
29	WHEREAS, in 2022, Jim and his Harris, DeVille & Associates family were awarded

30 the Legal Reform Champion Award by the United States Institute for Legal Reform; and

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1	WHEREAS, Jim was a pioneer in the issues management and public affairs field and
2	set the standard for trusted and effective communications on behalf of his clients; and
3	WHEREAS, Jim was a trustworthy advisor and provided counsel to seven Louisiana
4	governors, hundreds of Louisiana legislators, and countless parish and local officials; and
5	WHEREAS, Jim was considered a giant in the governmental affairs community who
6	always conducted himself in a calm, ethical, and gentlemanly manner; and
7	WHEREAS, Jim was a wise and kind mentor to dozens of current members of the
8	Louisiana governmental affairs society, always happy to provide advice and direction; and
9	WHEREAS, Jim had a great interest in Winston Churchill and British culture and
10	lived by the famous English slogan, "Keep Calm and Carry On"; and
11	WHEREAS, Jim was a voracious reader, loved all music, a great cup of chicory
12	coffee, and always dressed impeccably regardless of the situation or setting; and
13	WHEREAS, Jim believed in sticking to the facts and pressing forward knowing that
14	truth would prevail even against the greatest odds; and
15	WHEREAS, Jim was a true patriarch to all who needed him by reassuring them that
16	everything would be all right as long as we kept pushing forward; and
17	WHEREAS, Jim pushed on until the very end of his days with strength and grace,
18	and even after his ALS diagnosis and inability to talk, he continued working as best he could
19	and was passionately devoted to helping his Harris, DeVille &Associates family for as long
20	as possible; and
21	WHEREAS, Jim was a proud husband, father, grandfather, and brother, and is
22	survived by his loving wife of 49 years Linda Harris, his daughter Sydney Harris Stormer,
23	son-in-law Tim Stormer, son Jake Harris, grandson Hudson Harris Stormer, sister Susan
24	Soprano-Auburn, and brother-in-law Ken Auburn; and
25	WHEREAS, Jim will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who knew him;
26	and
27	WHEREAS, Jim was a master at his craft and a true Louisiana legend who will
28	always be remembered for his presence, wisdom, charm, love, and quiet benevolence; and
29	WHEREAS, Jim loved Louisiana and left our great state better than he found it by
30	leaving a mark on our hearts and minds that will last forever.

1	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
2	express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the passing of Jimmy "Jim" Foster Harris and
3	does hereby recognize and record for prosperity his many outstanding achievements.
4	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Linda
5	Harris, Sydney Harris Stormer, Jake Harris, Renwick DeVille, and Harris, DeVille &
6	Associates.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Matt DeVille.

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DIGEST 2023 Regular Session

Allain

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