

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 61

BY SENATORS JOHNS, ABRAHAM, BARROW, BERNARD, BOUIE, CATHEY, CLOUD, CORTEZ, FESI, FIELDS, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, PEACOCK, PETERSON, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, TARVER, WARD AND WOMACK AND REPRESENTATIVES BOURRIAQUE, CARRIER, WILFORD CARTER, FARNUM, GEYMAN, ROMERO AND TARVER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of the Honorable Victor "Vic" Stelly and Mrs. Terry Bass Stelly and to commend the legacy of public service that they leave to the community of Lake Charles and the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it is with great sadness that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the death of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Stelly, who passed away within hours from one another due to complications from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, married for over sixty years, Vic and Terry's love affair and great affection for one another was surpassed only by their love for God; and

WHEREAS, Vic and Terry's personalities were as different as night and day, but it was their differences that kept them young and passionate; they complemented one another in such a way that, no matter what life threw at them, they were able to lift the other's chin, calm each other's spirit, and continuously pointed one another to what mattered most: family, relationships, and service; and

WHEREAS, the Stellys met at Northwestern State University where Vic was a quarterback for the NSU Demons, and inseparable from the day they met, they married during Vic's sophomore year of college; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation, the young couple moved to Baton Rouge where Vic attended graduate school at Louisiana State University and began his teaching and coaching career at Broadmoor High School and then at Redemptorist High School before returning to collegiate competition as an assistant coach for McNeese State University; and

WHEREAS, as they settled into their new life in the Lake Charles area, Terry began her career in public service as a legal assistant for the office of the district attorney in Calcasieu Parish; and

WHEREAS, Vic's last football season at McNeese State University gave way to an entirely new season when he was recruited by State Farm to become the local agent for Moss Bluff, a position he enjoyed for twenty-five years; and

WHEREAS, throughout their careers, Vic and Terry had a genuine interest and love for the people they served, they tirelessly invested in their community and church, and they were always open to change that often, but not always, brought growth and opportunity into their lives; and

WHEREAS, Vic Stelly answered the call to public service by holding both local and state offices; he was a member of the Calcasieu Parish School Board and a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, he served on the school board from 1983 through 1987 and did not seek reelection because he stated: "I felt like I had done what the people had asked me to do, to get our schools in good shape"; and

WHEREAS, with no plans to run for another elected office, Vic Stelly began fielding numerous requests to then become the next state representative for District 35, and without hesitation, he entered the race and won and spent the next sixteen years in Baton Rouge crafting policies with the people's best interest at heart; and

WHEREAS, he served with unwavering dedication as a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives from 1988 through 2004 representing the concerns of residents of District 35; and

WHEREAS, noted as one of his biggest and most impressive political victories during his tenure, Mr. Stelly's desire to create more fiscal stability for the state by swapping higher income taxes for sales taxes on food, prescription drugs, and utilities was approved by the voters in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Vic Stelly is remembered by his colleagues in the House of Representatives as a fine gentleman and a true statesman and as a man of great character and integrity who led by example and was committed and dedicated to his community; and

WHEREAS, throughout her husband's long career in public service, Terry Stelly was with her husband every step of the way, from traveling across the state to gain support for the Stelly Plan, to accompanying Vic to his induction ceremony into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame in 2006, and to being with him when he returned to Baton Rouge to serve as a member of the Louisiana Board of Regents from 2007 through 2013; and

WHEREAS, while the Stellys were committed and hard-working in everything they did, they also took great pleasure in traveling to their favorite vacation spots, making beautiful memories in Orange Beach, Alabama, with their loved ones, and hosting their family and friends at every opportunity; and

WHEREAS, when they were together, Vic and Terry Stelly were truly their best selves, and together, they brought cohesion and peace to their family and loved their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren without limits; and

WHEREAS, Vic and Terry Stelly leave to cherish a lifetime of memories of love, wisdom, wit, hard work, and humor to their children, Tracy (Mickey) Fendley, Victor Todd (Lori) Stelly, Toni Stelly Hebert; grandchildren, Lance (Jamie) Fendley, Hannah (Jonathan) Johnson, Hayden Stelly, Hogan Stelly, Henry Stelly, and Emma Hebert; and great-grandchildren, Hudson and Truett Fendley and Faith and Lyn Johnson; and

WHEREAS, the passing of Vic and Terry Stelly has left a substantial void in the state of Louisiana and a sense of loss in the people whose lives they touched, and their memory will live forever in the hearts of all those who knew and loved this truly wonderful couple.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deepest and most profound condolences to the family of a great statesman, Honorable Victor Stelly and his wife, Terry Bass Stelly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to their children, Tracy Fendley, Victor Todd Stelly, and Toni Stelly Hebert.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES