



1           WHEREAS, Pat did it all with such style and grace; she was empathetic to the  
2 feelings of others, often overlooking their shortcomings and frailties; she was the genuine  
3 article; she was kind, courageous, and a quick wit; she was an angel without wings; and

4           WHEREAS, with Jerry's retirement from the military, they returned to Jennings in  
5 1974 to begin a new chapter in their lives; Jerry pursued a livelihood in banking and as a  
6 partner in Riceland Aviation with Pat as the office manager; and

7           WHEREAS, home again in Jennings, the children grew quickly as accomplished  
8 scholars and athletes, and Pat had time to devote to social activities and pastimes; as the  
9 daughter of a librarian, Pat was an avid reader, consuming whole tomes in a single sitting;  
10 she was a member of the Entre Nous luncheon group and the Thursday Coffee Club; she also  
11 served in the Ladies Altar Society of Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church; and

12           WHEREAS, their home was the center of bustling activity where Pat welcomed  
13 friends and family with flair, and created a congenial atmosphere of fun and fellowship  
14 found only in a loving, boisterous family; and

15           WHEREAS, Pat became an avid campaigner when her husband ran for elected office  
16 in the Louisiana Legislature in 1991; and

17           WHEREAS, the Theunissens were a fixture at the state capitol during his legislative  
18 service, from 1992 until 2008, which included terms in both the House of Representatives  
19 and the Senate; Pat accompanied Jerry to the legislature and acted as an advisor who offered  
20 thoughtful discourse about the complex issues at hand; and

21           WHEREAS, known as Pat Pat to her grandchildren, she instilled in them her love of  
22 reading and scholarship, her yearning for adventure and travel, and her infinite affection; and

23           WHEREAS, the spirit of Pat Theunissen lives on through the lives of her loving  
24 husband of sixty-one years, Jerry; their three children, Terry T. Persac, Julie T. McDonald,  
25 and Jay Jr.; five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, extended family and all who knew  
26 her and benefitted from her humanity; and

27           WHEREAS, Pat Theunissen leaves a legacy of life experience and good works,  
28 epitomized by the strength of southern womanhood, fulfilled by a personal commitment to  
29 savor life to its fullest, and pledged to uphold a sacred trust to give back to others much more  
30 than she had received.

1           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
2           express heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of a beloved individual, Patricia R.  
3           Theunissen, and does hereby express special condolences to her husband, former senator,  
4           Gerald J. "Jerry" Theunissen, our longtime friend and colleague.

5           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
6           celebrate the extraordinary life forged by Pat Theunissen; a life filled with compassion and  
7           joie de vivre.

8           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
9           Honorable Jerry Theunissen and his family.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Susan P. Montague.

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DIGEST

SCR 8 Original

2018 First Extraordinary Session

Morrish

Expresses condolences upon the death of Mrs. Patricia Theunissen of Jennings.