

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9

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 death of former Louisiana State Senator, the Honorable Elwyn J. Nicholson of Marrero.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret that the members of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the death of former legislator and businessman, Elwyn J. Nicholson, on Sunday, September 28, 2014, at ninety years of age; and

WHEREAS, Senator Nicholson was an affable gentleman blessed with a quick smile and a firm handshake; he possessed an innate self confidence, charisma, and sense of humor, and also had a profound understanding of the complexities of issues affecting South Louisiana; and he, through diligence and tenacity, led a fascinating life experiencing success in nearly every endeavor; and

WHEREAS, Elwyn Nicholson had the rare privilege of sixteen years of exemplary service in the Senate of the Louisiana Legislature from 1972 until 1988, representing the voters of Jefferson Parish; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Marrero, Senator Nicholson embodied the best qualities of a public servant; he held a genuine interest in the people he served and felt a personal responsibility to act on the behalf of his constituency with honesty and integrity; and

WHEREAS, he was born on December 11, 1923, graduated from Eunice High School, and attended Tulane University and Louisiana State University in the pre-med curricula; and

WHEREAS, Senator Nicholson proudly served his country in the United States Army during World War II, from 1942 until 1946, and later attained membership in the patriotic organizations of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars; and

WHEREAS, Elwyn Nicholson was an extremely successful businessman who owned the Nicholson and Loup Food Giant grocery store plus other interests; and

WHEREAS, he had great insight in commercial enterprise; and was knowledgeable in governmental regulations that affected both infrastructure and economic growth; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Senator Nicholson was chairman of the Health and Welfare Committee, vice chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, and held membership on the committees on Agriculture and Forestry, Local and Municipal Affairs, and Revenue and Fiscal Affairs; and

WHEREAS, Senator Nicholson took an avid interest in the repeal of certain regulations known as "Blue Laws" or "Sunday Closing Laws" that had been in effect for one hundred years; these statutes inhibited commercial entities from the sale of certain items on Sundays; these laws were difficult to interpret and nearly impossible to enforce; and after a twelve-year battle of continuous introduction of anti-blue law legislation, Senator Nicholson was victorious in 1986 with the repeal of the blue law legislation except by local option; and

WHEREAS, through his extraordinary talents of diplomacy and compromise, he brought to fruition important legislation that included authorization for a statewide lottery and casino gaming; the promotion of horse racing; a prohibition against counter letters; the repeal of the limitation placed on automobile license tax, a tax that had not increased since the Great Depression; the placement of the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism under the jurisdiction of the lieutenant governor; and an increase in penalties for offenses committed against children and the handicapped; and

WHEREAS, Senator Nicholson also had a penchant for "promotion of all things from Louisiana" when in 1983, he penned legislation to designate the crawfish as the state crustacean and the alligator as the state reptile; and

WHEREAS, Senator Elwyn J. Nicholson was a shrewd entrepreneur who understood that increased commercial activity at the local level brought much needed revenue to the

state fisc and provided for future economic growth; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure as a legislator, his political philosophy embraced compromise, those give-and-take processes of representative democracy; he provided invaluable leadership to the legislative process, which was made better by his active participation; and

WHEREAS, Senator Nicholson maintained an active interest in the New Orleans Retail Grocers Association, the Louisiana Food Dealers Association, and the Supermarket Institute; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his brother, Dr. Farrell R. Nicholson; and

WHEREAS, Senator Elwyn J. Nicholson is survived by his loving wife, Rose Marie; their children, a son, John W. Nicholson, a daughter, Sharon Nicholson Lewis; a sister, Carole N. Malbrough; grandchildren Matthew and Celeste Lewis, Anne, John IV, and William Nicholson, and Kristie N. Lapish; and five great-grandchildren; extended family, and many fond friends; and

WHEREAS, Senator Nicholson was a man with a generous heart and giving nature, was blessed with an abundance of determination and skill, performed his public service proudly and willingly, extended courtesy to all, and leaves a rich and unique legacy to his family, community, state, and nation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere condolences on the passing of Senator Elwyn J. Nicholson, a great statesman and a mainstay in the political and economic fabric of Jefferson Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his widow, Rose Marie Nicholson.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES