

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9

BY SENATOR PEACOCK AND REPRESENTATIVES GLOVER AND SEABAUGH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of businessman and former mayor of Shreveport, Louisiana, the Honorable William "Billy" Thomas Hanna Jr.

WHEREAS, it is with great remorse that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the death of William T. Hanna Jr. on December 17, 2016, at the age of eighty-six; and

WHEREAS, Billy Hanna was a true southern gentleman, a vibrant man of many talents, an exceptional businessman, and an outstanding public servant who envisioned lofty economic advancements for the city of Shreveport and region of Northwest Louisiana that came to fruition during his lifetime; and

WHEREAS, Billy Hanna was a gracious servant of the community who expressed gratitude for his good fortune by his participation in all manner of civic issues and social activities; and

WHEREAS, born in Kansas City, Missouri, on September 26, 1930, to parents William Thomas Hanna Sr. and Irma Belle Adams; his family moved to Shreveport when Billy was an infant and he grew into the All-American boy; he excelled in sports and academics; and

WHEREAS, as a stellar athlete at C. E. Byrd High School, he was an outstanding athlete in football, basketball, baseball, and softball; after graduation, he played collegiate baseball for four years at Louisiana State University; a three-year letterman from 1949 through 1951, he scored the most runs and made the most hits of the season during his senior year; and

WHEREAS, he considered a career in professional baseball and played the position of shortstop in the minor leagues, however, that dream was interrupted by a call to military duty in the United States Air Force during the Korean Conflict; and

WHEREAS, Billy Hanna began his business career in automobile sales in 1953 when he returned home from military service to join his father at the family dealership of Andress-Hanna Lincoln-Mercury, later to evolve into Bill Hanna Ford; and

WHEREAS, his astute business acumen garnered recognition from his peers and inclusion in many prestigious, professional associations, such as, the Shreveport-Bossier New Car Dealers Association, Louisiana Automobile Dealers Association, the Sales and Marketing Association, and National Ford Dealer Council; and

WHEREAS, many public and nonprofit agencies benefitted from his guidance and leadership that included the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, the Better Business Bureau, Holiday in Dixie, the Ambassadors Club, the Shreveport Country Club, the Committee of 100-Shreveport, the Louisiana Economic Development Corporation, the LSU Board of Supervisors, the LSU Alumni Association, and the LSU Tiger Athletic Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Billy Hanna was rewarded by the automobile industry with receipt of numerous accolades that included Time Magazine Quality Dealer Award and Louisiana Automobile Dealer of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Billy maintained his avid interest in athletics and the sports industry and was essential in the formation of the University Club, the Shreveport Captains Baseball Team, and the Shreveport Steamers franchise of the World Football League; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Billy Hanna considered contributing more to the community and ran a successful campaign for the office of mayor with the motto, "The Citizen Mayor - The Choice for Change"; and

WHEREAS, during his single term from 1978 to 1982, an escalation of economic development projects brought about the construction of the Expo Hall, continued I-49 highway expansion to North Louisiana, and a General Motors facility; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Billy Hanna joined parish government and served as its director of buildings and grounds, and later as director of operations and assistant administrator; and

WHEREAS, he continued to further his public service in local government with the appointment as administrator and Chief Executive Officer of Caddo Parish and remained in that position until his retirement in 2006; and

WHEREAS, during his service as parish administrator, he was responsible for the successful settlement of the boundary dispute between Caddo and Bossier parishes, which affected revenue collections from riverboat gaming; and

WHEREAS, he also consolidated major governmental headquarters at Government Plaza, established an emergency cell phone program for the elderly and handicapped, and assisted in establishment of the Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Billy Hanna is survived by his wife, Marvelle, their four daughters, Stephanie Chaffee, Shelley Prothro, Dorothy Kristin Hanna, and Cynthia Morgan Hanna; two stepsons, Jeff and Greg Deyo; grandchildren, extended family, and many close friends; and

WHEREAS, for eight decades, Billy Hanna left an indelible mark on Caddo Parish and whether the economic times were "boom or bust," he readily performed his civic duty whenever and wherever possible; and

WHEREAS, Billy was a generous man who possessed an abundance of interests and skills; and

WHEREAS, Billy Hanna wore the mantle of public service proudly and willingly while extending courtesy to all.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the passing of the Honorable William "Billy" Thomas Hanna Jr., businessman, public servant, and former mayor of Shreveport, Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby acknowledge a lifetime of tremendous contributions that William Thomas Hanna Jr. made to his community, state, and nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his widow, Mrs. Marvelle W. Hanna.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES