

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 91

BY SENATOR MCPHERSON AND REPRESENTATIVE HAZEL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Dr. Arnold Task on his retirement as Rabbi of the Gemiluth Chassodim Jewish Temple.

WHEREAS, Dr. Task is a native of Chicago, Illinois, and a 1952 graduate of the University of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, he married Judy Wiener, and they have three children, five grandchildren, and three step-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, he was ordained in 1958 at the Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he received a Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters, and in 1983, he earned a Doctor of Divinity degree; and

WHEREAS, before moving to Alexandria, Louisiana, Dr. Task served congregations in St. Louis, Missouri; Newport News, Virginia; and Greensboro, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, in Newport News, Virginia, beyond his Rabbinical responsibilities, Rabbi Task was president of the Peninsula Family Services and Traveler's Aid, on the board of the American Red Cross, Peninsula Council on Aging, Peninsula Association of Retarded Children, and the National Conference of Christians and Jews; and

WHEREAS, from 1964 to 1965, Rabbi Task served as director of the Mid-Atlantic Federation of Temple Youth, and dean of the National Federation of Temple Youth Leadership Institute for two years; and

WHEREAS, in Greensboro, North Carolina, he served as president of the Family Service and Traveler Aid, co-chair of the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust, chairman of the Guilford County Commission on the Needs of Children, and chairman of the City of Greensboro Human Relations Commission; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Task was president of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and served two terms on the National Executive Board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his congregational duties in Alexandria, Louisiana, he served as president of the Central Louisiana Ministers Association, the Family Counseling Agency, Angel Care, and is the current president of the Louisiana Maneuvers and Military Museum at Camp Beauregard; and

WHEREAS, he is past chairman of the Louisiana State University at Alexandria Lay Advisory Committee and, for three years, he was vice president for Military Affairs of the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Task has served on the Board of Directors of the United Way, Renaissance Home, and is past president of the Central Louisiana Community Foundation; and

WHEREAS, he chaired the Alexandria Human Relations Task Force and was founder and first chairman of the Human Relations Commission; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Task is a member of the Veterans Affairs Health Ethics Commission, co-chair of the Cenla Health Care Ethics Coalition, chairman of the State of Louisiana Region VI Mental Health Advisory Council, and a member of the Alexandria Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS, he has lectured at colleges in Louisiana, Missouri, Illinois, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, and served as an adjunct professor at Greensboro College and Louisiana State University at Alexandria for thirty-six years, teaching Judaism and the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, since 1989, Dr. Task has been the spiritual leader of the Gemiluth Chassodim Jewish Temple in Alexandria, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Task has received numerous awards and honors including, but not limited to, the Newport News Distinguished Merit Citation, the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce Human Rights Award, the Greensboro Kiwanis Club Distinguished Service Award, the Arthritis Foundation Humanitarian Award, the Alexandria Veteran's Affairs Medical Center Trailblazer Award, and the State of Louisiana Legacy of Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Task announced his retirement in January, 2011, indicating that June 24, 2011 will be his last day as the leader of the Gemiluth Chassodim Jewish Temple congregation; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria City Councilman, Harry Silver, instrumental in recruiting Dr. Task, says that *Rabbi Task is well accepted and respected in every aspect of family and religious life.*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Dr. Arnold Task on his retirement as Rabbi of the Gemiluth Chassodim Jewish Temple.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Arnold Task.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES