

2016 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 12

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Judge Thomas Eaton Stagg Jr.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the  
3 death of United States District Court Judge Thomas Eaton Stagg Jr.

4 WHEREAS, Judge Tom Stagg was born on January 19, 1923, to Thomas E. Stagg  
5 Sr. and the former Beulah Meyer, and passed away in Shreveport on June 23, 2015, at the  
6 age of ninety-two; and

7 WHEREAS, Judge Stagg graduated from C. E. Byrd High School in 1939, attended  
8 Marion Military Institute in Alabama, and graduated from Louisiana State University with  
9 a bachelor of art's degree in 1943; and

10 WHEREAS, he served in the United States Infantry during World War II in both  
11 France and Germany during which time he was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, the  
12 Bronze Star for Valor, and the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster; and

13 WHEREAS, Judge Stagg was saved from death when a German bullet struck the  
14 New Testament he carried in his pocket, and he shared that story and showed the  
15 bullet-scarred holy book to colleagues and friends for decades; and

16 WHEREAS, he briefly attended Cambridge University Law School in England and  
17 LSU Law School, where he received his Juris Doctor in 1949; and

18 WHEREAS, Judge Stagg began his legal career at the firm of Hargrove, Guyton, Van

1 Hook and Hargrove, was a solo practitioner from 1953 to 1958, and thereafter became the  
2 senior partner with Stagg, Cady, Johnson and Haygood and the successor firm of Stagg,  
3 Cady and Beard; and

4 WHEREAS, while maintaining a thriving legal practice, he was also active in  
5 business and civic affairs, both locally and nationally, being very involved in the Jaycees,  
6 the Saint John's Parents Club, the Shreveport Airport Authority, and the annual Red Mass  
7 in the Shreveport-Bossier community; and

8 WHEREAS, he was awarded the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center's Distinguished  
9 Alumnus award and named to the Byrd High Hall of Fame; and

10 WHEREAS, he was an active Republican at every level from the precinct on up,  
11 serving as a five-time delegate to Republican National Conventions from 1956 to 1972 and  
12 as national committeeman as well as chairman on several of the committees; and

13 WHEREAS, he was an elected delegate to the 1974 Louisiana Constitutional  
14 Convention; and

15 WHEREAS, Judge Stagg was appointed to the United States District Court for the  
16 Western District of Louisiana in 1974, served as chief judge from 1984 to 1991, and  
17 assumed senior status in 1992; and

18 WHEREAS, he continued as an active jurist for the remainder of his life and his  
19 personal feeling was that "this was the best job a guy could have"; and

20 WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Betty Stagg of  
21 Dallas, Texas; and is survived by his wife of sixty-nine years, Margaret O'Brien Stagg, and  
22 daughters, Julie Harrington and husband, Martin, of Denver, Colorado, and Margaret Sour  
23 of Shreveport; and

24 WHEREAS, "Pop Pop" is also survived by grandchildren, Sarah and Chris Garrett  
25 of Shreveport, Annie and Brad Weinig of Denver, Lauren and Tom Harrington of Palo Alto,  
26 California, and great-grandchildren Charlie Garrett, Maggie Garrett, and Pete Weinig; and

27 WHEREAS, Judge Stagg, known for his bow ties, enjoyed traveling, morning jaunts  
28 with his walking group, Monday night badminton games, and photography, and he called  
29 himself a "belly botanist" because he liked to get up close and personal with every  
30 wildflower he hoped to capture; and

1           WHEREAS, he has been described as prepared, detail-oriented, spirited, patriotic,  
2 full of wisdom and wit, and a great role model.

3           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
4 does hereby extend condolences to the family of United States District Court Judge Thomas  
5 Eaton Stagg Jr.

6           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his  
7 wife, Margaret O'Brien Stagg.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

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DIGEST

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