

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 140

BY SENATOR MILLS

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Paul Joseph "Pojo" Morvant Sr. and to recognize and record the remarkable contributions of this distinguished Louisianian to his state and nation.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that citizens of Louisiana and the members of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the passing of Paul Joseph "Pojo" Morvant Sr., at age seventy-one, on March 20, 2018, after a decades-long battle with multiple sclerosis; and

WHEREAS, Paul Joseph "Pojo" Morvant Sr. was born in St. Martinville, Louisiana, and moved with his family to Breaux Bridge in 1950; he graduated from St. Bernard High School in 1965 where he excelled in athletics, especially football; he earned a bachelor of art's degree in English at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in 1970, and later that year was commissioned a Second Lieutenant upon graduation from United States Air Force Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Morvant completed Undergraduate Flying Training in January 1972, and after graduation as "Top Gun" of his class at F-4E Phantom Combat Crew Training School, he was assigned to the 4th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Udorn Royal Air Force Base, Thailand; and

WHEREAS, while in Southeast Asia, he completed more than 120 combat missions, including 10 missions over downtown Hanoi, North Vietnam, during the decisive 11-day Linebacker II operation of December 1972; and

WHEREAS, returning to the United States, he was assigned to Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, and McGee-Tyson Air Force Base, Tennessee, serving as an instructor in the KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft; and

WHEREAS, Pojo returned to Southeast Asia in May 1975 to participate in the rescue attempt of the USS Mayaguez and then spent the remainder of his career in the F-4E Phantom at New Orleans Naval Air Station, and the C-130 Hercules at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, and Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, although selected for promotion to the rank of lieutenant colonel, Pojo was forced to retire from military service in March 1991 for medical reasons; and

WHEREAS, his numerous awards and decorations include eight Air Medals earned while flying the F-4E Phantom in Southeast Asia; and

WHEREAS, for his outstanding and dedicated service to the United States, Pojo was inducted into the Breaux Bridge Military Hall of Fame in July 2006; and

WHEREAS, he was a lifetime member of the Vietnam Veterans of America and served on its board of directors; and

WHEREAS, in his retirement, Pojo was an avid sports fan and enjoyed following his favorite teams from afar; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Claymar (C.J.) and Genevieve (Genny) Hebert Morvant; his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Saul Morvant and Mr. and Mrs. George Hebert Sr.; his sisters, Mattie M. Watson and Carolyn M. Rhodes; five uncles; and four aunts; and

WHEREAS, Paul Joseph "Pojo" Morvant Sr. is survived by his loving wife of forty-eight years, Mary Ann Goll Morvant; his children, Paul "Joey" Joseph Morvant and Tara Ann Morvant; his brother, Dane Morvant; and numerous nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana, for themselves and for the people of Louisiana whom they represent, wish to officially recognize and record the accomplishments of one of Louisiana's noblest sons.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize and record for posterity the enduring appreciation of this body for the significant contributions of Paul Joseph "Pojo" Morvant Sr., to his state and nation and does hereby express sincere condolences upon his death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the wife of Paul Joseph "Pojo" Morvant Sr., Mary Ann Goll Morvant.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE