### SLS 24RS-780

## **ORIGINAL**

2024 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 16

BY SENATOR ALLAIN

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences on the death of St. Mary Parish Sheriff Blaise Smith.

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the
3	death of St. Mary Parish Sheriff Blaise Smith.
4	WHEREAS, it is with solemn regret and heartfelt sorrow that the citizens of St. Mary
5	Parish learned of the loss of St. Mary Parish Sheriff Blaise W. Smith; and
6	WHEREAS, Sheriff Blaise Smith passed away in the afternoon hours of Saturday,
7	February 24, 2024, at the age of seventy-five, surrounded by the love of his family and
8	friends at The Carpenter House of St. Joseph Hospice in Lafayette after bravely facing a
9	prolonged illness; and
10	WHEREAS, Blaise was born into the military family of Bert and Mae Smith on
11	December 7, 1948, in San Diego, California; and
12	WHEREAS, a distinguished veteran of the United States Army, he bravely served
13	in combat in the Vietnam War; and
14	WHEREAS, transitioning from military service, he embarked on a lifelong
15	commitment to law enforcement, dedicating over five decades serving with numerous
16	agencies ultimately culminating in his tenure as Sheriff of St. Mary Parish from 2018 until
17	his passing; and
18	WHEREAS, renowned for his accessible demeanor and unwavering commitment to

SLS 24RS-780

# ORIGINAL SR NO. 16

1	enhancing community safety, Sheriff Smith prioritized the well-being of his fellow law
2	enforcement officers; and
3	WHEREAS, truly a man with a servant's heart, Sheriff Smith exemplified the
4	meaning of dedication, integrity, faithfulness, compassion, and honesty; and
5	WHEREAS, despite his larger-than-life personality, Sheriff Smith retained humility,
6	never losing sight of his roots or the individuals who supported him throughout his journey;
7	and
8	WHEREAS, Sheriff Smith held a priceless collection of stories, masterfully
9	recounted in a way that captivated listeners, evoking laughter and tears alike; and
10	WHEREAS, alongside his dedication to law enforcement, Sheriff Smith remained
11	steadfast in his Christian faith, exemplifying the principles of service and compassion by
12	extending Christ's love to all those he encountered, embodying the essence of selfless
13	devotion and neighborly affection; and
14	WHEREAS, Sheriff Smith led countless church services to bring the word of God
15	to others, preached at an unknown number of funerals for those he knew as well as those he
16	did not; and
17	WHEREAS, Sheriff Smith offered his support to individuals navigating various trials
18	and tribulations, tirelessly striving to convey God's love, solace, and tranquility to those in
19	need; and
20	WHEREAS, a 32nd degree Mason, Sheriff Smith was a member of the Franklin
21	Masonic F. & A. M. Lodge 57 as well as the Breaux Bridge Lodge 746; he was a three-time
22	past Master, served as secretary for 23 years, and served two consecutive years as Chaplain
23	for the 11th Masonic District; and
24	WHEREAS, though Sheriff Smith was a man of many hats, one of his favorites was
25	definitely the red and white hat he wore as one of Santa's helpers along with his wife Karen
26	who gave Mrs. Clause a helping hand; and
27	WHEREAS, when the Christmas season rolled around, the twinkling in his eyes grew
28	
	bigger and bigger, and whether he was riding in a parade or simply sitting on the bayou side
29	bigger and bigger, and whether he was riding in a parade or simply sitting on the bayou side at Franklin's Christmas on the Bayou light display, the joy Sheriff Smith brought to

### SLS 24RS-780

### ORIGINAL SR NO. 16

1	WHEREAS, Sheriff Smith leaves behind to cherish his memory his wife of twenty-
2	two years, Karen McGoff Smith; his three children, Brent W. Smith and his companion
3	Bethany Sonnier, Bridget Smith Buck and her husband Dr. John Buck, and Keely Jean Smith
4	and her fiancé Cornelius Johnson; his three bonus children, Tava Deslatte Robichaux,
5	Tandra Deslatte Hebert and her husband John, and Larry "Teddy" Deslatte III and his wife
6	Celeste; nineteen grandchildren, Braylon, Gavyn, Avery, Addison, Keelyn, Natalie, Isaiah,
7	Blaise, Brendon, Briana, Rebekah, Austin, MaKaila, Johnaé, Ryan, Caleb, Grace, Collin, and
8	Madelyn; great-grandchildren, Rylee, Foster, Ivy, Blake, Noah, Austin Jr., Rosélyn, Kinley,
9	Karsyn, Londyn, and Delilah; his sister, Patty Smith May; his brother-in-law, Richard
10	McGoff and his wife Mary Lynn; his sister-in-law, Lea Salvador and her husband Neil; his
11	brother in Christ, Ronald C. Williams and his wife Judy; his Army brother, Ted Horsman
12	and his wife Jeannie; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends; and
13	WHEREAS, Sheriff Smith is preceded in death by his parents, Bert W. Smith and
14	Mae Thieme Smith; his two brothers, Orlin David Smith and Scott Lawrence Smith; his
15	mother-in-law, Claire Giroir McGoff; his brothers-in-law, Robert McGoff, Raymond
16	McGoff, and Davey May; and his infant granddaughter, Kailyn Elizabeth Hebert.
17	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
18	does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences on the death of St. Mary Parish
19	Sheriff Blaise Smith.
20	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
21	Karen McGoff Smith.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Kathy Liberty.

SR 16 Original

DIGEST 2024 Regular Session

Allain

Expresses condolences upon the death of St. Mary Parish Sheriff Blaise Smith.