

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 175

BY SENATORS PRESSLY, BASS AND JENKINS

A RESOLUTION

To express sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of William Jefferson Cole.

WHEREAS, William Jefferson Cole, managing partner of the accounting firm of Cole, Evans, and Peterson and trusted advisor to Willis Knighton Health System, contributed significantly to the growth and service of these institutions in Northwest Louisiana, passed away on May 24, 2024; and

WHEREAS, a deeply spiritual man, the son of Robert Leslie Cole and Mattie Belle Griffith Cole, Jeff was a member of Broadmoor Presbyterian Church, where he taught Sunday School for many years; and

WHEREAS, he attended Grand Cane School, was an honor student, played basketball and held many jobs to assist in providing for his family from a young age, including working as a roughneck on oil rigs in South Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Louisiana Tech, serving as ROTC Wing Commander, Jeff entered the United States Air Force, serving four years including stations in France and Germany before returning to Northwest Louisiana and joining the local accounting firm of Cole, Evans, and Peterson, where his leadership and vision as managing partner was the driving force behind the firm's growth and development; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his professional career, Jeff established and operated Cole Farm producing high-quality cattle in the Grand Cane area for 40 years and breaking horses throughout his life; he was an accomplished athlete, running twenty-five marathons, including qualifying and running in the Boston Marathon; and

WHEREAS, an extraordinary person, loving husband, father, grandfather, and brother, Jeff lived a remarkable life full of generosity, teaching, and service to others; Jeff lived every day with the motto that "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above..." James 1:17, and shared generously his vast spiritual, intellectual, and financial gifts with countless people; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Cole's legacy of faith, hard work, and dedication to his community leaves an indelible mark on all who knew him and his passing leaves a void that will be deeply felt; and

WHEREAS, Jeff was preceded in death by his parents; his wife of 51 years, Marilyn Charleen Miller Cole; sisters, Sue Lynn Franklin and Caroline Boyd; and brothers-in-law, William J. Franklin, Roy W. Burr Sr., and Albert Grey; and

WHEREAS, Jeff was blessed and survived with his second wife of seven years, Lisa Harbour Cole; his daughter, Anne-Marie May and husband Matt; sisters Bobbye Wilson and husband, Ray, and Jan Burr; grandsons, Adam Jefferson Cain and wife, Emmie Cain, Jacob John Cain and wife, Laney Cain; stepdaughters Ainsley Wilson, April Wilson Wall and husband, Jonathan, Alaina Wilson Anderson and husband, Garrett; sister-in-law JoAnn Miller Grey; nieces, Frances Beck and husband, Bill, Stephanie Webster and husband, Alan Sosebee, Stacy Mills and husband, David, DeAnne Lachney and husband, Mike, Allison Boyd, Pam Roberts, Janet Richards and husband, Tim; nephews, Roy Burr Jr. and wife, Cindy, Charles Webster and wife, Nena, Les Webster and wife, Nancy, John Franklin and wife, Jann, Cole Franklin and wife, Lottie; Jeff is also survived by his son-in-law's parents, Robert and Mary May and their daughter, Alison; deemed grandchildren Taylor and Cole Richards, Emma and Meredith Roberts, and Connor and Mary Mickelson and numerous extended family and friends.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of William Jefferson Cole on the occasion of his passing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Jeff's wife, Lisa Harbour Cole.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE