

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 223

BY SENATOR MORRISH

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Judge Bernard Marcantel.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens of Louisiana learned of the death of Judge Bernard Marcantel on May 9, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Bernard Marcantel was born on July 14, 1923, in Oberlin, Louisiana, where he graduated valedictorian of his high school class; and

WHEREAS, he received his bachelor of science degree from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) in 1946 and his Juris Doctor from the University of Chicago Law School in 1949; and

WHEREAS, while at the University of Chicago, he served as associate editor of the Law Review from 1947 to 1948; and

WHEREAS, Judge Marcantel received a second Juris Doctor from Tulane University Law School in 1950, and in 1953 was elected the youngest district attorney in Louisiana, serving Jefferson Davis and Allen parishes; and

WHEREAS, Judge Marcantel was a practicing attorney in Jennings for sixty-eight years and an active member of the American Bar Association, the Louisiana State Bar Association, and the Jefferson Davis Bar Association since 1950; and

WHEREAS, he was honored by the Louisiana State Bar Association for more than sixty years in the practice of law, served Jefferson Davis Parish as district attorney for the 31st Judicial District from 1953 to 1978, and judge for the city of Jennings and Ward II from 1985 to 1993; and

WHEREAS, Judge Marcantel also served as judge pro tempore for the 31st, 14th, 15th, and 36th Judicial Districts of Louisiana and the Third Circuit Court of Appeal; and

WHEREAS, he was the founding member of his law firm and has been practicing law in Louisiana since 1950, making Marcantel, Marcantel, Wall and Pfeifer the oldest law firm in Jefferson Davis Parish; and

WHEREAS, in his role as judge, he performed numerous weddings and the participants always enjoyed his sometimes stern, sometimes light-hearted words of advice to the newly married couple; and

WHEREAS, Judge Marcantel served in the United States Army during World War II in the European Theatre of Operations and fought at the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes Forest; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of American Legion Post #19 in Jennings for seventy-one years and served as president of the board of directors of Jeff Davis Mortuary Benefit Association for thirty-seven years; and

WHEREAS, Judge Marcantel received the Silver Beaver award from the Boy Scouts of America and in 2010, he was named Citizen of the Year by the Jeff Davis Business Alliance; and

WHEREAS, he was also a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and served as president of the ULL Alumni Association and later of the Senior ULL Alumni Association; and

WHEREAS, he served as president of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association and was later selected for Who's Who in America; and

WHEREAS, Judge Marcantel was a member of Our Lady Help of Christians Church for sixty-eight years and served the church on the parish council, the school board, and as legal counsel for many years; and

WHEREAS, he was also a 4th Degree Member of the Knights of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, Judge Marcantel's happiest times were spent at his camp, Cardinal Cove, near Lake Arthur on the Mermentau River, surrounded by family and friends; and

WHEREAS, his passion for hunting and fishing were legendary and every avid hunter coveted an invitation to his houseboat in the deep marsh for a shot at the legal limit; and

WHEREAS, his dogs, Buck, Miss Bee, and Rex were part of the family as well; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his daughter, Nancy Tabb Marcantel; three sons, David Emile Marcantel, Gregory Norman Marcantel, and Peter C. Marcantel; ten grandchildren: Pierre, Natalie, Joel, Andrew, Anna, and Noel Marcantel; Chelsea

Marcantel-Polaski; Sister Protectrice de la Foi; Shannon Rougeau Greer; step-grandson Paul Rougeau; one great-grandchild, Tristan Greer; and numerous much-loved nieces and nephews on both the Marcantel and deGravelles sides who considered him their patriarch and mentor; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Emile and Florence Reed Marcantel; his wife, Martha deGravelles Marcantel; his second wife, Nancy Ellisor Marcantel; and his infant daughter, Kathryn; and

WHEREAS, with the death of Judge Bernard Marcantel, Louisiana has lost one of its finest sons, a quintessential southern gentleman who loved his community and whose accomplishments have left an indelible mark upon his community, state, and nation; and

WHEREAS, his death has left a substantial void in the Jennings community and a sense of loss in the citizens whose lives he touched, and his memory shall live forever in the minds and hearts of all those who knew and loved this remarkable man.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Judge Bernard Marcantel, records for posterity his outstanding achievements, and extends enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that he will forever bring to the Jennings community, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Judge Bernard Marcantel.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE