

2021 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 37

BY SENATOR FOIL

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Judge Douglas Marion Gonzales Sr.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the
3 death of Judge Douglas Marion Gonzales Sr., retired, and to recognize his paramount
4 contributions to the state, to his family and friends, and to his community.

5 WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the Senate of the
6 Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing of a great jurist, gentleman, and family
7 patriarch, Douglas Marion Gonzales Sr., in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on January 22, 2021,
8 at the age of eighty-five years; and

9 WHEREAS, he was one of Louisiana's best legal minds and a man committed to
10 integrity through excellence and service to his fellow man; and

11 WHEREAS, Doug was born on December 11, 1935, to Edward Joseph Gonzales Jr.
12 and Ruth Attaway Gonzales; and

13 WHEREAS, he was a proud graduate of Catholic High School, Class of 1955, and
14 the University of Notre Dame, Class of 1959; and

15 WHEREAS, Doug graduated from the Louisiana State University school of law in
16 1963, and was admitted to the Louisiana bar that same year; and

17 WHEREAS, he was a man of integrity and fortitude, practicing law in the private
18 sector from 1963 to 1967; and

1 WHEREAS, he served as an Assistant District Attorney for East Baton Rouge Parish
2 from 1967 to 1971; and

3 WHEREAS, Doug was a man of wisdom, intelligence, and justice who was
4 appointed the first director of the office of the public defender, serving in that post from
5 1971 to 1972; and

6 WHEREAS, he was appointed by President Gerald R. Ford to be the United States
7 Attorney for the then newly-created Middle District of Louisiana, serving in that post from
8 1972 to 1976; and

9 WHEREAS, Judge Gonzales was elected to the Nineteenth Judicial District Court
10 for the first time in 1976; and

11 WHEREAS, he went on to be reelected multiple times, serving on the court until
12 1990, and as chief judge from 1986 until 1990; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1990, Judge Gonzales was elected to the First Circuit Court of
14 Appeal, serving with distinction until retiring in 2002; and

15 WHEREAS, he was renowned, on both the trial and appellate benches, for his
16 attention to detail and his courtesies to all sides of a case; and

17 WHEREAS, Doug was a member of the Baton Rouge and American Bar
18 Associations, American Judges Association, and American Judicature Society; and

19 WHEREAS, he was a man who worked tirelessly for the benefit of others, and
20 selflessly served his community as a proud lifetime member of the Baton Rouge Jaycees and
21 a founding member of the Baton Rouge State Fair Foundation; and

22 WHEREAS, Doug was a member of Cajun Clickers, the Baton Rouge Power
23 Squadron, the Kiwanis Club, Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, and Phi Delta Phi legal
24 fraternity; and

25 WHEREAS, he was a staunch supporter, even in his passing, of the Catholic High
26 School Foundation; and

27 WHEREAS, Doug was a man of faith and values, and a longtime member of St.
28 Thomas More Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus; and

29 WHEREAS, he is remembered as a generous and talented person who enjoyed many
30 hobbies and was passionate about learning, especially new technologies, and who also loved

1 traveling, especially with groups; and

2 WHEREAS, Doug was an avid supporter of law enforcement and the military; and

3 WHEREAS, he was "the life of the party" and never found a social gathering he did
4 not like; and

5 WHEREAS, Doug was an extraordinary husband, father, grandfather, and friend,
6 who is survived by his loving wife of fifty-four years, Gail Webre Gonzales; his children,
7 Dr. Douglas M. Gonzales Jr. (Diane) and Kelly Gonzales Rohwedder (Edward); his
8 grandchildren, Drew and Anna Gonzales and Addis and Hong Rohwedder; his brother,
9 Edward J. Gonzales III; his sister-in-law, Ann Gonzales; and his nephew, Edward J.
10 Gonzales IV; and

11 WHEREAS, the memory of Douglas Marion Gonzales Sr. will always remain in the
12 hearts of his family and friends, who will forever reap the benefits of his lifetime of
13 achievement; and

14 WHEREAS, he represented all that is good about Louisiana as a man with unique
15 gifts and a charitable spirit, and with his passing, Louisiana has lost one of its finest citizens
16 who left an indelible mark on the lives of the many individuals whom he touched with his
17 truly inspiring qualities and generosity, and who is now terribly missed but will never be
18 forgotten.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
20 does hereby extend its sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family of Judge Douglas
21 Marion Gonzales Sr., retired, upon the occasion of his death, and does hereby recognize and
22 record for posterity his paramount contributions to the state, to his family and friends, and
23 to his community.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does
25 hereby express its appreciation for Judge Gonzales' enduring contributions, which shall long
26 continue to be a source of deep honor for the city of Baton Rouge, the state of Louisiana, and
27 beyond, and does hereby pay tribute to his remarkable legacy, which shall live long in the
28 hearts of those who were touched by his humanity.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his
30 wife, Gail Webre Gonzales.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alden A. Clement Jr.

SR 37 Original	DIGEST 2021 Regular Session	Foil
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