

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 49

BY SENATOR FOIL

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Neil Graham Odenwald.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the passing of Neil Graham Odenwald, on April 26, 2021, at age eighty-five; and

WHEREAS, he was born on May 3, 1935, in Ruleville, Mississippi, and earned his undergraduate degree and PhD in horticulture from Mississippi State University and his master's degree in landscape architecture from LSU; and

WHEREAS, Neil Odenwald's career began in the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service and he was Professor Emeritus of landscape architecture at LSU and served as Director of the LSU Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture; and

WHEREAS, he served as Chairman of Landscape Design Schools for the National Council of State Garden Clubs, as a consultant on the *Time-Life* plant materials publications, and was awarded the Medal of Honor from the Garden Clubs of America; and

WHEREAS, Neil Odenwald's publications include *Southern Plants*, *Plants for Designers*, *Live Oak Splendor*, *Attracting Birds to Southern Gardens*, *Plants for American Landscapes*, and *The Bountiful Flower Garden* and he was a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects; and

WHEREAS, he was instrumental in founding the Southern Garden Symposium, served as president of the John James Audubon Foundation, and was recently honored with the establishment of the Neil G. Odenwald Distinguished Professorship at LSU; and

WHEREAS, Neil's restoration and preservation efforts can be seen in numerous historical gardens throughout the South including New Orleans Botanical Gardens, Afton Villa, Rosedown, LongVue, Bocage Plantation, and Biedenharn; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Mable Odenwald, and his brothers Joseph (Jean) and Robert (Sylvia) Odenwald; and

WHEREAS, Neil Odenwald is survived by his wife, Rebekah Lemoine Odenwald; his sons Von (Jo-Lynn) and Jon (Sharon); his daughter Elisa (Kevin) Osborn; his grandchildren Emily (Kerry) Klein, Lauren, Grant, Anna, and Grace Odenwald, and Jason Osborn; his great-grandchild James Klein; his sister Ruth Claire Adair; his former wife Virginia Patsy Odenwald, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins; and

WHEREAS, the loss of Neil Odenwald has left a tremendous void in his community and has created a genuine sense of sorrow in the hearts of all whose lives he touched.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Neil Graham Odenwald, does hereby record his formative role in the development of landscape architecture at LSU and his dedicated efforts toward continued development of professional landscape architecture in Louisiana, does hereby express enduring appreciation for his contributions during a lifetime of dedication to his family, friends, community, and state, and does hereby recognize that his legacy will live forever in the minds of all who knew and loved him.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Rebekah Lemoine Odenwald.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE