SLS 20RS-959 ORIGINAL

2020 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 50

BY SENATOR FOIL

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Billy Seay, PhD.

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the
3	death of Billy M. Seay PhD, the founding Dean of Louisiana State University Honors
4	College, and long-time academician at Louisiana State University.
5	WHEREAS, Billy Seay was born in Bismark, Arkansas, and died in Baton Rouge,
6	Louisiana, on December 4, 2019; and
7	WHEREAS, Billy Seay graduated from Southern State College in Magnolia,
8	Arkansas, and received his PhD in psychology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison;
9	and
10	WHEREAS, Billy Seay, Ph.D came to Louisiana State University in 1964 as a young
11	psychologist, but one who had already published a then ground-breaking study of mother-
12	infant separation, co-authored by his major professor at the University of Wisconsin, Harry
13	F. Harlow; and
14	WHEREAS, Dr. Seay was married to the love of his life, Nedra Dees Seay, for sixty
15	years and the couple raised two children, daughter Delecia, and son Franklin, as well as five
16	beloved grandchildren; and
17	WHEREAS, Billy Seay was committed to his faith and was a long-time member and
18	deacon of University Baptist Church, where he also served as a Sunday School teacher; and

SLS 20RS-959 ORIGINAL SR NO. 50

1	WHEREAS, he enjoyed fishing, reading, camping, and traveling with his wife, as
2	well as texting with his grandchildren, which he learned to do particularly to be able to stay
3	in touch with them; and
4	WHEREAS, in 1992, LSU opened the Honors College, renamed the Roger Hadfield
5	Ogden Honors College in 2014, as an academic community offered to the top ten percent of
6	students admitted to LSU, housed in the heritage-listed French House, and offering a
7	curriculum of seminar classes, mentoring relationships with faculty, and opportunities for
8	undergraduate research culminating in the Honors Thesis; and
9	WHEREAS, Billy Seay, PhD was named the founding dean of the Honors College
10	in 1992, a position he held until his retirement from LSU in 2003; and
11	WHEREAS, one of Dr. Seay's proudest moments was watching his granddaughter,
12	Margaret Carey, graduate from the Ogden Honors College in December, 2019; and
13	WHEREAS, Dr. Billy Seay lived a life focused on his love of family, faith, and his
14	academic commitment to students at LSU, first in the field of psychology, and then as the
15	dean of a bold academic enterprise begun in the 1990s that continues to serve the best and
16	the brightest students well into the twenty-first century.
17	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
18	does hereby express sincere condolences upon the death of Billy M. Seay, PhD, the founding
19	dean of the LSU Ogden Honors College and long-time academician at LSU.
20	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
21	Mrs. Nedra Dees Seay, widow of Dr. Seay.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

DIGEST SR 50 Original 2020 Regular Session

Foil

Expresses condolences upon the death of Dean Billy Seay, founding dean of the LSU Honors College.