

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 61

BY SENATOR WARD

A RESOLUTION

To commend and acknowledge the legacy of the late Lawrence Russo for his years of meritorious public service to the citizens of the parish of Pointe Coupee and the town of Livonia as its first mayor.

WHEREAS, it is with great admiration and civic pride that Lawrence Russo was considered "a founding father" of Livonia having served as the first mayor and whose leadership accelerated growth and produced efficient delivery of essential services; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, local businessman Lawrence Russo was first appointed as mayor after incorporation of the municipality during the administration of Governor Jimmie H. Davis and continued to serve for a total of sixteen years in that position; and

WHEREAS, the first town hall meeting was held at his family-owned business, Russo's Garage, and was attended by councilmen Peter Riviere, Sidney Gonzales, and J. O. Vallet; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure the community benefitted from his foresight to capture state and federal funding for infrastructure improvements such as paved streets, street lights, traffic signals, drainage improvements, waste disposal, highway resurfacing, bridge repair, railroad safety, and many other projects important for continued growth in Livonia; and

WHEREAS, his diligence brought to fruition numerous municipal services such as fire protection; law enforcement; city planning; public utilities such as water, gas, electricity, and telephones; and the construction of a new city hall; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Russo's sense of fairness, hard work, and civic dedication determined the success of the town, and won the confidence of the voters and the respect of local leaders; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence Russo was most content when he was "working for the people", no matter what the undertaking; and

WHEREAS, as a man of unfaltering faith, Lawrence Russo was a longtime member of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini Catholic Church, where he served as an usher; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Russo was an extraordinary man who clearly demonstrated during his lifetime his dedication to the community and exemplified the finest qualities of a proficient, parochial government leader who unselfishly dedicated his life to public service and the betterment of others; and

WHEREAS, public sentiment has favored a sign of respect for the former mayor expressed by naming a portion of U. S. Highway 190 within the corporate limits of Livonia in his honor as "Lawrence Russo Memorial Highway".

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and acknowledge the legacy of public service that former mayor, the Honorable Lawrence Russo, has left to the town of Livonia and pay tribute to his remarkable contributions to the community, parish, and state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that consideration be given to honor the memory of the first mayor by naming that portion of U. S. Highway 190 within the corporate limits of the town as "Lawrence Russo Memorial Highway".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Lawrence Russo.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE