

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 76

BY SENATOR FOIL

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of John Compton Jr. and to recognize his outstanding accomplishments.

WHEREAS, it was with deep regret and profound sorrow that members of the Senate of Louisiana learned of the death of John Compton Jr. on March 26, 2022; and

WHEREAS, John Compton Jr. was born in Rapides Parish on September 14, 1935, where his families' roots ran deep as pioneers; and

WHEREAS, John Jr. spent his formative years on his family's Cheneyville farm where his love of animals and appreciation for agriculture was first illuminated; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, John left his home to study agriculture economics at Louisiana State University where he thoroughly enjoyed his youth and experienced all of the social fun and indulgence that college has to offer becoming a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity and also one of the infamous LSU Samurai; when reminiscing on his days at LSU, he would jokingly say that if he had any more fun, he would not have graduated; and

WHEREAS, it was at an Episcopal Student Center mixer that he met Miss Fannie Samuel who would later become his loving and devoted wife of over sixty-two years; and

WHEREAS, Fannie, who is lovingly called "the Madame", and John were wed in 1959 just after graduation, and the couple moved to Fort Gordon, a military installation in Augusta, Georgia, for John to fulfill his military commitment; and

WHEREAS, John's active duty service at Fort Gordon was shortened by hardship brought on by the death of his father-in-law, resulting in his transfer into the United States Army Reserves; his military service continued until his retirement with the prestigious rank of Lieutenant Colonel; and

WHEREAS, upon returning to the city of his collegiate days, John and his family made Baton Rouge their home, and as befitting his degree, he went to work for the state's agriculture department under the leadership of former commissioner Dave Pierce; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Pierce maintained an innate love of people that matched John's and the two traveled the state, visiting small towns, appearing on local television and broadcasting on radio programs with the mission to promote Louisiana's vast agricultural products, and together, they became the public faces of agriculture in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, John's trusted and established history of presenting the prodigious agricultural resources of Louisiana in an affective and intelligible way endeared him to newly elected Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry, Bob Odom who asked John to become his deputy; and

WHEREAS, through his work, John was recognized, well-known, and well-liked by residents including the numerous state employees who time and time again, elected him to serve as their representative to the Louisiana Deferred Compensation Board even after his state retirement; and

WHEREAS, the celebration to commemorate John's retirement was described as both an epic and memorable night with mountains of jambalaya for guests to enjoy, spontaneous interruptions of good humor, and an unprecedented number of family, friends, and loved ones who traveled from across the state during inclement weather to honor his years of hardwork, dedication, and service to the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, John was actively engaged in ministry through his service at St. James Episcopal Church where he served on the vestry, fulfilled frequent usher duties as well facilitated the foyer group dinners for over 20 years alongside his wife; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Compton was engaged in community organizations and participated as a member of the Baton Rouge Assembly, the Baton Rouge Country Club, the City Club, the Society of Colonial Wars, and even demonstrated his lively spirit and love of dance through his membership with several dance clubs; and

WHEREAS, John had the distinct honor of being appointed president of the Greater Baton Rouge Dyslexia Association and served on the Soil and Water Conservation Board for more than three decades; and

WHEREAS, though he had an incredible social life and loved his career, above all else, John's love and devotion to his wife, his son John Compton III, and his daughters Frances Compton Rambo and Elizabeth Compton, who he affectionately called Bethie Boo, were always first in his life; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Fannie and John celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary dancing, trying new foods, and discussing the political landscape of their beloved state, all while being surrounded by family and friends; and

WHEREAS, John Compton Jr. led a remarkable life and those who knew and loved him swell with pride remembering his love for his family, his state, and his faith; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Compton represents all that is good about Louisiana with all of his unique talents, dynamic spirit, and charitable heart; he shared his talents and abilities with his community and was a man of distinction who will be intensely missed but will never be forgotten.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of John Compton Jr., does hereby recognize and record for posterity his accomplishments, and does hereby extend appreciation for his enduring contributions and transformative impact that will long be appreciated and a source of pride in the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to family of John Compton Jr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE