

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 3

BY SENATORS FIELDS, ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BARROW, BERNARD, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, CORTEZ, FESI, FOIL, HARRIS, HENRY, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, JOHNS, LAMBERT, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, ROBERT MILLS, PEACOCK, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, TALBOT, TARVER, WARD, WHITE AND WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of James Michell "Jimmy" Bernhard.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Louisiana Senate have learned of the passing of James Michell "Jimmy" Bernhard, age ninety-four, on September 25, 2020, at his home in Lafayette, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, James Bernhard was born on December 4, 1925, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to William and Christabell Bernhard; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from Catholic High School in Baton Rouge and was honored by the school as a Grizzly Great; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy attended Louisiana State University, where he excelled in sports, playing both basketball and football in 1943, 1944, and 1945, was captain of the football team, and while in college, also played semi-pro baseball in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, he married the love of his life, Barbara Savage Bernhard, on April 11, 1953, in Opelousas, Louisiana, and this union was blessed with four children; and

WHEREAS, the Bernhards resided in Baton Rouge until moving to Lafayette a few years later to establish their family home and mechanical contracting business; and

WHEREAS, for over fifty years, Jimmy was a leader of Bernhard Mechanical Contractors, one of the largest and oldest companies in the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, he was an active and dedicated member of Holy Cross Catholic Church and an integral part of the Knights of Columbus, holding various statewide offices as well as being a Grand Knight; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy chaired many charitable events in Lafayette, the most unique being a fundraiser for Cathedral Carmel High School which hosted the famous Harlem Globetrotters as entertainment; and

WHEREAS, he was generous with his time and talents, and his leadership brought little league baseball to Lafayette; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy was preceded in death by his father, William F. Bernhard; his mother, Christabell Clarke Bernhard; his brother, William F. Bernhard Jr.; and his sisters, Bertha Bernhard Breen, Alice Bernhard McCrain, and Thyra Bernhard Richardson; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Barbara, and their children, Jim Bernhard Jr. and wife Dana Reneau Bernhard, Janice Bernhard Slaughter, Kenneth "Kenny" Bernhard and wife Elaine Wimberly Bernhard; and Peggy Elaine Bernhard; his brother, Charles R. Bernhard; twelve grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and beloved friends; and

WHEREAS, with the death of Jimmy Bernhard, Louisiana has lost one of its finest citizens who was admired by all whose lives he touched and he will be greatly missed; and

WHEREAS, his passing has left a tremendous void in the Lafayette community, but his love, smile, and personality shall remain eternally in the hearts and minds of his loved ones, friends, and all who had the opportunity to meet and know him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of James Michell "Jimmy" Bernhard; does hereby record and acknowledge his singular contributions and achievements, and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the pride and honor that this wonderful gentleman brought to his family, friends, community, and state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his wife, Barbara Bernhard.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE