

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

BY SENATOR MICHOT

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Leonard Joseph "Lenny" Hensgens.

WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret and most profound sorrow that the legislature and the citizens of Louisiana have learned of the death of Leonard Joseph "Lenny" Hensgens; and

WHEREAS, he was born October 7, 1929 in rural Acadia Parish, the eldest of six children; and

WHEREAS, he attended St. Michael Elementary and High School, and went on to become a full-time farmer upon his father's retirement, where he took great pride in his crops for sixty years, taking two years off to serve his country with valor in the United States Army from 1954 to 1956; and

WHEREAS, his contributions to the agriculture industry were felt on parish, state, and national levels; and

WHEREAS, on the parish level, he served as president of Acadia Parish Farm Bureau, chairman of the rice committee, and was a charter member and president of the Acadia Rice Growers Association; and

WHEREAS, on the state level, he served as chairman of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Rice Advisory Committee, a member of the Rice Promotion Board, chairman of the Rice Research Board, president of the Louisiana Rice Council, president of the Louisiana Rice Growers Association, vice chairman of the Food Safety and Information Clearinghouse Committee, and president of the Louisiana Association of Farmer Elected Committee; and he was Rice Festival Farmer of the Year in 1968, and honoree in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Lenny Hensgens was active in the National Agriculture Association, president of the USA Rice Council, and held membership on the Agriculture Technical Advisory Committee, the National Rice Growers Association, and the National Association of Farmer Elected Committee; and

WHEREAS, he was also instrumental in achieving the increase in check-off funds for research, reorganization of the Louisiana Rice Growers Association in 1987, promotion and marketing efforts with West Africa and Japan, and establishment of rice future trading in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, he was a loving and devoted husband, a cherished father and brother and a committed grandfather, whose love of family was of utmost importance in his life; and

WHEREAS, he was a devout member of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Crowley, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Lenny Hensgens was the kind of citizen who represents all that is good about Louisiana, a man of wisdom who used his considerable talents, integrity, and passions to improve the lives of his fellow citizens, and with his death, Louisiana has lost one of her finest sons; and

WHEREAS, although the death of Leonard Joseph "Lenny" Hensgens has left a tremendous void in his community, his memory shall long continue to be a source of deep pride and honor for those whose lives he touched, and his legacy will live forever in the minds and hearts of all who knew and loved him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Leonard Joseph "Lenny" Hensgens, does hereby recognize and record for posterity his outstanding achievements and contributions, and does hereby pay tribute to him for the generous and effective way in which he dedicated his intelligence and his energy to the service of his family, friends, community, state, and nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the Resolution be transmitted to his wife of fifty-seven years, Sarah Smith Hensgens.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE