

Resolution

Subject: Resolution in Memory of Michael C. Voisin

Text of Resolution: *Whereas*, Michael Christopher Voisin was born on April 10, 1953, and passed away

unexpectedly on February 2, 2013. Mike was born into the family of a sixth-generation oyster family and raised in Torrance, California, where upon graduation from Torrance High School, he could not resist the allure of South Louisiana so he moved with his father, Ernest Voisin, to Houma, Louisiana, in 1971 to help his father return to the oyster business, thereby becoming a seventh-generation oysterman; and

Whereas, in Houma, Mike met the love of his life, Sarah Theriot, from Theriot, Louisiana and married her in 1975 spending more than forty years together living a life with six children Kevin, Gregory, Amy, Sally, Sandy, and Terrance Conrad – and fourteen grandchildren; and

Whereas, from his position in the front office, and in imitation of his father's public service, Mike became the face and voice of the Louisiana seafood industry and grew into one of the strongest advocates for the Gulf of Mexico seafood industry throughout the nation; and

Whereas, Mike Voisin served on and chaired many other seafood related entities including the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association, the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation, the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference, the Louisiana Restaurant Association, the Southeastern Fisheries Association, the Louisiana Seafood Processors Council, the Gulf Oyster Industry Council, the National Fisheries Institute, and the Molluscan Shellfish Institute of North America; National Fish and Seafood Promotion Council, the National Shellfish Pollution Indicator Program, the Louisiana Oyster Lease Damage Evaluation Board, and Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration, and Conservation, and most recently, he was appointed by Governor Bobby Jindal to serve on the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission; and

Whereas, Mike also was called upon to serve his state, his industry, and his region through participation on governmental entities supportive of the seafood industry and in doing so, he was instrumental in the creation of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board, for which he served as the original chairman; and

Whereas, in addition to service to the seafood industry Mike was active in his service to the city of Houma and Terrebonne Parish where he served on the Terrebonne Parish Economic Development Consortium, the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce, the South Louisiana Economic Council, the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, and the Terrebonne General Medical Center Board of Commissioners, serving as chair at the time of his death; and

Whereas, Mike was also active in the academic community where he served as a board member for the Louisiana Marine Consortium, was on the LSU Marine and Coastal Fisheries Advisory Board, was an advisory member for the Nicholls State University College of Business and for the John Folse Culinary School at Nicholls State, and in December of 2012, Mike was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Commerce from Nicholls State University.

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Whereas, Mike was also a strong and active leader in his life in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, where he served in many capacities including Bishop of the Thibodaux congregation from 1996 through 2001, Branch President for the Larose Branch from 2005 to 2006, Stake High Councilor from 2006 to 2007 and most recently as High Priest Group Leader; and

Whereas, Mike along with Chris Nelson and Al Sunseri instituted an annual trip to Washington, D.C., coordinated by the Gulf Oyster Industry Council, where members of the Gulf oyster industry met with members of Congress and congressional aides and Administrative Departments to discuss the state of the oyster industry and the needs of the industry.

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference does hereby express its condolences upon the untimely and unexpected death of Michael Christopher Voisin from Houma, Louisiana, a founding member of the Conference and advocate and spokesperson for the Louisiana oyster community and the coastal fishing community.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference acknowledge his contributions by a letter to that effect to his family.

**Action by 2013
Resolutions
Committee**

Recommended adoption of Resolution 13-001 as submitted.

**Action by 2013
General Assembly**

Adopted Resolution 13-001.