

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 3, 2007

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007—08 REGULAR SESSION

House Resolution

No. 12

Introduced by Assembly Member Mullin

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Adams, Aghazarian, Bass, Berg, Berryhill, Blakeslee, Brownley, Caballero, Charles Calderon, Carter, Cook, Coto, Davis, De La Torre, De Leon, DeSaulnier, DeVore, Duvall, Dymally, Emmerson, Eng, Evans, Feuer, Fuller, Gaines, Galgiani, Garcia, Garrick, Hancock, Hayashi, Hernandez, Horton, Houston, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Karnette, Keene, Krekorian, La Malfa, Laird, Leno, Levine, Lieber, Lieu, Ma, Maze, Mendoza, Nakanishi, Niello, Nunez, Parra, Portantino, Price, Richardson, Salas, Saldana, Silva, Smyth, Solorio, Strickland, Swanson, Torrico, Tran, Villines, and Wolk)

May 2, 2007

House Resolution No. 12—Relative to Louis J. Papan.

1 WHEREAS, Louis J. Papan had a distinguished career in public
2 service, being first elected to the California State Assembly in
3 1972, where he served until 1986, and then returned to serve in
4 the Assembly from 1996 to 2002; and
5 WHEREAS, During his record tenure as Chairman of the
6 Assembly Rules Committee from 1976 to 1986, Lou Papan earned
7 the sobriquet “The Enforcer” for his faithful service to Speakers
8 Leo McCarthy and Willie L. Brown, Jr. in an era when, as the
9 California Journal declared, “Every Speaker needs someone who,
10 when they get up in the morning, does not need to believe anybody
11 loves them”; and

1 WHEREAS, Lou Papan loved kids, and taking the helm of the
2 State Capitol Restoration, California's Bicentennial Project, he
3 pushed for the now familiar ground level museum which he saw
4 as necessary to give students more education than the county
5 exhibits could offer; and

6 WHEREAS, At birth in Springfield, Massachusetts, Lou Papan
7 was named Elias Papandricoupolos, but because the doctor who
8 delivered him was not familiar with the name Elias, he wrote Louis
9 on the birth certificate; and

10 WHEREAS, Lou's parents, John and Flora Papandricoupolos,
11 emigrated from Peloponnese, Greece, to Springfield,
12 Massachusetts. Both his parents worked to support him and his
13 younger sister, Kiki. His mother, Flora, worked full time in a
14 garment factory for 40 years. His father, John, worked in a
15 restaurant. Lou started school as a latchkey kid who spoke only
16 Greek. In order to survive, he quickly learned English; and

17 WHEREAS, A spunky kid with an entrepreneurial spirit in the
18 middle of the Depression, Lou began shining shoes to help support
19 the family. On a good day, he would bring home more than his
20 father. He went on to work in an armory and a leather factory. He
21 also spent one day working in a tire factory. However, when he
22 came home covered in black soot, his mother refused to let him
23 go back; and

24 WHEREAS, Lou graduated from Technical High School and
25 at age 17 he left the security of his close-knit Greek family to join
26 the Army. Sergeant Papandricoupolos's 16-letter last name almost
27 completely encircled his Army helmet; and

28 WHEREAS, Following the Army, Lou went to Syracuse
29 University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Economics.
30 As an Air Force reservist in college, upon graduation he served as
31 a First Lieutenant during the Korean Conflict. After Korea, Lou
32 entered Georgetown Law School and then attended the Federal
33 Bureau of Investigation Academy. As a Special Agent for the
34 F.B.I., he was sent to San Francisco; and

35 WHEREAS, Lou's time in San Francisco changed his life
36 forever, for it was there that he met and married the love of his
37 life, Irene Damis, who was from Portland, Oregon, and studying
38 at Mills College. Lou left the F.B.I. and entered the real estate and
39 insurance business and co-founded the Peninsula Bank of
40 Commerce in 1981; and

1 WHEREAS, Lou’s 42 years of marriage resulted in three
2 beautiful children: John, Gina, and Diane; and

3 WHEREAS, Gina, formerly a California Deputy Attorney
4 General, is now the Deputy Director of the California Office of
5 Criminal and Justice Planning. She was elected to the Millbrae
6 City Council in November 2005. Diane practices law in San
7 Francisco; and

8 WHEREAS, Regrettably, John Papan suffered for most of his
9 21 years of life from a rare congenital illness. Being parents of a
10 child with special needs became a harsh reality. However, Lou
11 and Irene made the conscious decision to make John’s life as full
12 and normal as possible. Despite John’s illness his tremendous will
13 and spirit enriched the lives of all he knew, particularly his father,
14 who became committed to making a difference for kids with special
15 needs; and

16 WHEREAS, While at the pinnacle of his public Rules
17 Committee power, Lou Papan privately endured the inability to
18 change his son’s life. He was deeply inspired by his son’s courage,
19 frequently recounting the story of how he once watched his son,
20 then a young man, endure tests that sent waves of burning pain
21 through his limbs, only to hear John turn and quip to his doctors
22 that “It was time to call the fire trucks”; and

23 WHEREAS, Lou and Irene carried on John’s spirit after his
24 passing by starting a scholarship in his name and a not-for-profit
25 clothing bank, John’s Closet, that provides new clothes to needy
26 children. In doing so, John’s Closet seeks to promote self-esteem
27 and encourage kids to stay in school; and

28 WHEREAS, While in the Legislature, Lou Papan worked
29 tirelessly to champion the causes of children, workers, and families.
30 He authored legislation improving public instruction for disabled
31 students, requiring the reporting of child and elder abuse, and
32 establishing childcare centers for families with business before the
33 courts; and

34 WHEREAS, Lou Papan, whose birth in the year before the Great
35 Depression gave him a clear memory of the financial need his
36 parents’ generation faced, led the Legislature’s reform of the state
37 pension systems amid an era of looming change by championing,
38 and seeing the adoption in 1984 after its 1982 rejection of, a State
39 Constitutional Amendment imposing upon the investment activities

1 of the state’s pension systems the heightened standard of the
2 prudent expert rule; and

3 WHEREAS, Lou Papan played a key role in establishing and
4 expanding California’s public transportation agencies. He carried
5 legislation to ensure the future reliability of our regional water
6 delivery system, to encourage conservation and recycling on a
7 regional basis, and to assist in financing essential system
8 improvements; and

9 WHEREAS, Lou Papan also wrote significant legislation
10 affecting business in California. As Chairman of the Banking and
11 Finance Committee, he spearheaded efforts to support independent
12 banking institutions and authored legislation to amend state escrow
13 laws to allow Internet-based companies to conduct e-business; and

14 WHEREAS, Lou Papan also increased legislative accountability
15 by ensuring that the Legislature’s records were subject to the
16 Legislative Open Records Act, and ensuring the viability and
17 professional management of the public employees and state
18 teachers retirement systems in California. Lou Papan was also
19 successful in securing funding to purchase beachfront property in
20 Pacifica for the state parks system and to protect endangered
21 species in an area proposed for development on San Bruno
22 Mountain; and

23 WHEREAS, As Chair of the Assembly Rules Committee, Lou
24 Papan oversaw the restoration of the State Capitol, a six-year
25 project with a \$67 million budget which was completed on time
26 and on budget, and the building now bears a plaque with his name
27 on it. Under his leadership, the Rules Committee was also
28 responsible for the creation of the first minority outreach program
29 in the Legislature; and

30 WHEREAS, Lou Papan treasured his Greek heritage of having
31 always been free, heroically courageous, and democracy’s
32 birthplace so much so that in periods of great challenge,
33 Assemblyman Papan was quick to cite the motto of the Spartans,
34 “Ç ÔÁÍ Ç ÅÑÉ ÔÁÓ” (“We win, or we return on our shield”), to
35 signal his resolve to prevail in the challenges he faced; and

36 WHEREAS, Lou Papan received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor
37 in 1996. The award is given by the National Ethnic Coalition of
38 Organizations (NECO) to ethnic Americans who have made
39 significant contributions to this country; now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
2 Assembly mourns the passing of Louis J. Papan and extends its
3 condolences to his family and many friends; and be it further
4 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk distribute copies of this resolution
5 to the author for appropriate distribution.

O