

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 109

BY REPRESENTATIVES BURRELL, ABRAMSON, ADAMS, ANDERS, ARMES, ARNOLD, BADON, BARRAS, BARROW, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, STUART BISHOP, WESLEY BISHOP, BOUIE, BROADWATER, BROWN, BURFORD, HENRY BURNS, TIM BURNS, CARMODY, CARTER, CHANEY, CONNICK, COX, CROMER, DANAHAY, DOVE, EDWARDS, FANNIN, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GAROFALO, GEYMANN, GISCLAIR, GUILLORY, GUINN, HALL, HARRIS, HARRISON, HAVARD, HAZEL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HONORE, HOWARD, HUNTER, HUVAL, IVEY, JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, MIKE JOHNSON, ROBERT JOHNSON, JONES, KLECKLEY, LAMBERT, NANCY LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LOPINTO, LORUSSO, MACK, MIGUEZ, MILLER, MONTOUCET, MORENO, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, NORTON, ORTEGO, OURSO, PEARSON, PIERRE, PONTI, POPE, PRICE, PUGH, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, RITCHIE, ROBIDEAUX, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHRODER, SEABAUGH, SHADOIN, SIMON, SMITH, ST. GERMAIN, STOKES, TALBOT, THIBAUT, THIERRY, WHITNEY, ALFRED WILLIAMS, PATRICK WILLIAMS, WILLMOTT, AND WOODRUFF AND SENATORS ADLEY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD, AND WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Alphonse Jackson, Jr., former state representative and founding member of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the death of former state representative Alphonse Jackson, Jr. on Tuesday, December 23, 2014, at the age of eighty-seven; and

WHEREAS, born on November 27, 1927, in Shreveport, Alphonse Jackson, Jr. was the son of the late Alphonse Jackson, Sr. and Mattie P. (Beaner) Jackson and was a widely respected, admired, and beloved citizen of Louisiana; an intelligent and hard-working child who excelled academically, Mr. Jackson spent summers working on his grandfather's farm in Forbing and honed his entrepreneurial skills in Shady Grove at Beaner's Grocery and his father's Phillips 66 Friendly Service Station; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Central High School, Mr. Jackson attended Southern University in Baton Rouge, where he was initiated into the Beta Sigma Chapter of

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; shortly after signing up for selective service, he was drafted into the United States Army and served his country with valor both during and after World War II; he was among the military personnel deployed to Hiroshima and Nagasaki to engage in atomic cleanup operations; and

WHEREAS, following his honorable discharge from the Army, Mr. Jackson returned to Southern University and earned a bachelor of arts degree in social studies, graduating with honors in 1951; he matriculated to New York University, where he earned a master of arts degree in secondary education administration; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson began his professional career as a social studies and English teacher at his alma mater, Central High School; later he became chair of the school's social sciences department and eventually its principal; during his eighteen years as an administrator, he also served as principal of Judson Elementary School; he was among the first African American principals to be assigned to a predominantly white school during desegregation in Caddo Parish, and in recognition of his excellence as an educator, he was recognized as the Caddo Educator of the Year in 1960; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, Mr. Jackson received the Citizenship Education Award for Civil Rights Leadership from the Louisiana Education Association (LEA) for his efforts to promote equal educational opportunity and was later elected as the LEA president; in the early 1970s, he was appointed to the Biracial Committee and continued his work on desegregating Caddo schools and ending de jure segregation; President Richard Nixon and the National Education Association sought his guidance on desegregation interventions and successful educational strategies; and

WHEREAS, it was Mr. Jackson's passion for education that inspired his political advocacy, and in 1972, he began his long and distinguished term of service in the Louisiana House of Representatives as the first black legislator elected from Caddo Parish since Reconstruction; during his tenure in the House, which spanned from 1972 until 1992, he used every opportunity as an able and productive legislator to serve this state in an honorable and dedicated manner; he served diligently on several committees, including as the chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare and as a member of the House committees on Appropriations, Education, and Judiciary; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson was elected as a delegate to the Louisiana Constitutional Convention of 1973, and as chairman of the Committee on Bill of Rights and Elections, he worked with other delegates to craft the Louisiana Constitution of 1974; in 1977, he was one of ten founding members of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus and ultimately served with distinction as the dean of the caucus; and

WHEREAS, in the private sector, Mr. Jackson was president of Jackson, Nicholson and Associates, where he coordinated political campaigns and planned public relations and marketing programs, and after his departure from the legislature, he worked as a public affairs consultant for the Hurst Group, a public relations and government affairs firm; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Mr. Jackson was active in his Baptist faith; he was baptized at the Springfield Baptist Church and later united with the Avenue Baptist Church, where he taught Sunday school; in later years, he united with the Zion Baptist Church until he became a member of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson lent his time and service to several organizations, including as a former member and past president of the Delta Upsilon Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and as a Life Member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the LEA; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson was recognized on numerous occasions for his singular contributions and accomplishments, including having the Alphonse Jackson, Jr. Early Childhood Center in Shreveport named in his honor, receiving the Friend of Education Award from the Louisiana Association of Educators, and being designated by *The Shreveport Times* as one of most influential people of Northwest Louisiana in the twentieth century; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson was the kind of citizen who represents what is good about Louisiana, a man of wisdom who used his talents, integrity, and passion for his home state to change Louisiana for the better; he was a distinguished member, as Tom Brokaw wrote in his book, *The Greatest Generation*, of "a generation that, by and large, made no demands of homage from those who followed and prospered economically, politically, and culturally because of its sacrifices ... a generation of towering achievement and modest demeanor ... the greatest generation any society has ever produced"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson is survived by his wife of twenty-one years, Glenda Hurst Jackson; his daughters, former state legislator Lydia P. Jackson and Angela E. Jackson; his stepdaughter, Andrea M. Archie; his grandson, Jacobi D. Glenn; his sister, Olive "Ollie" Gibson; his father-in-law, Norbert Hurst; his former wife, Rubye H. Jackson, the mother of Lydia and Angela; two goddaughters, Kelesha T. Martin, and Sallie Singleton; and numerous nieces and nephews who loved their "Uncle Jack"; he was preceded in death by his grandparents, Anola and Sam Beaner; his parents, Mattie and Alphonse Jackson, Sr.; his brother, Samuel L. Jackson; his sisters, Shirley Jackson Minor and Gloria G. Jackson; and his stepson, James R. Archie II; and

WHEREAS, with the death of Mr. Jackson, the state has lost one of her finest sons, a man who has left an indelible mark on the minds and hearts of all who knew and loved him, including the members of the House family, all of whom mourn the loss of this wonderful man who served this institution, this state, and his nation so well; he leaves a rich and unique legacy and is greatly missed by all whose lives he touched through his unwavering dedication to public service and to his fellow citizens.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Alphonse Jackson, Jr., former state representative and founding member of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, does hereby recognize and record for posterity his notable accomplishments and singular contributions during his twenty-year tenure as a distinguished member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the pride and honor that this wonderful man will forever bring to his family, his community, his state, and the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Alphonse Jackson, Jr.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE