

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 139

BY REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of Andrew D. Frazier of Ruston.

WHEREAS, the members of the House of Representatives were saddened to learn of the death of Andrew D. Frazier, of Ruston, in August 2016; and

WHEREAS, Andrew D. Frazier, affectionately called "Mr. A.D.", contributed much to the lives of the people of Ruston and was truly a trailblazer in the community; and

WHEREAS, Andrew was born with a hearing impairment; by the age of nine, his mother, father, and sister had transitioned to their eternal rest; his childhood was spent in homes of other family members; and

WHEREAS, despite the tragedies that beset his formative years, Andrew Frazier earned a college scholarship and answered the call to military service; after his tour of duty was concluded, Mr. Frazier felt an urge to be a catalyst for change in his community; his message to Ruston's youth was that circumstances should not define their futures; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960s, Mr. Frazier and his wife Lucy, who was a teacher and dietician, responded to a lack of early childhood education in Lincoln Parish for low income families by opening the first African American licensed daycare center in Lincoln Parish; and

WHEREAS, the Fraziers continued their care of Ruston's youngest citizens and opened several daycare centers in Lincoln Parish; their centers provided education to children who otherwise would not have had early academic learning opportunities; from 1965-1980, the Fraziers served approximately one thousand children; and

WHEREAS, during a time of extreme racial tension in Lincoln Parish, Mr. A.D. entered the 1971 race for Lincoln Parish Police Jury, Ward 1; Andrew Frazier said he was tired of the African American community being underserved and he wanted to make a change; he defeated his white opponent who had held the office for many years and was police jury president; Andrew Frazier was also a member of the Democratic Caucus and served as an advisor to Governor Edwin Edwards; and

WHEREAS, Mr. A.D. spent weekends volunteering with the Ruston Boxing Club where he trained teenage boys in the art of boxing; his goal was to teach young men discipline and strength and to provide them recreational activities to keep them out of trouble; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Frazier was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who taught his children, grandchildren, and youth in his community to have the courage to pursue their dreams and to always be proud of who they are.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Andrew D. Frazier; does hereby record for posterity the achievements of this outstanding citizen of the state; and does hereby express best hopes for peace and comfort for those who mourn his passing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Andrew D. Frazier.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES