

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 150

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Shirley Slaughter Young.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens of Louisiana learned of the death of Shirley Slaughter Young on May 8, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Slaughter Young was born in Patoutville, Louisiana, to Cornelius Slaughter Sr. and Ellen Alexander Slaughter, and she was the youngest of seven children; and

WHEREAS, she attended Patoutville Elementary School and graduated from Jeanerette Colored High School in 1953, and at the age of sixteen enrolled at Grambling State University and completed her studies in 1956, earning a bachelor's degree in education in only three years; and

WHEREAS, at the age of nineteen, Shirley Young began a lifelong career in the field of education, obtained her master's degree from Southern University in 1967, and completed graduate work beyond the master's level at the University of Southwestern Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, she began her teaching career in Iberia Parish at Lee Street Elementary and later at Grand Marais Elementary, and upon moving to Lafayette, she advanced her career with the Lafayette Parish School System teaching first grade at St. Antoine Elementary School in the early 1970s during the initial days of school integration; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Young, along with several other African-American teachers, was mandated to transfer to schools on the South side of Lafayette to integrate the school system, and she transferred to Edgar Martin Middle School where she remained until her retirement in 1987; and

WHEREAS, at Edgar Martin Middle School she became a role model to the newly integrated African-American students as well as students of all races, and it was there that she created lifelong friendships with her administrators and coworkers; and

WHEREAS, upon her retirement from the Lafayette Parish School System, she taught for a short time at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School, but her love for Holy Family Catholic School led her to take a position there that afforded her the opportunity to serve in various capacities including classroom teacher, assistant principal, and curriculum coordinator for twenty years until her retirement; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Young's entire professional teaching career, which spanned fifty years, consisted of educating children in both public and Catholic school systems, a professional achievement rarely seen in education today, and she has the distinct honor of being the first Lafayette Education Foundation Inspirational Category winner; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, the Youngs and several other families helped to integrate St. Anthony Catholic Church and in 1974, Mrs. Young answered the Lord's call to lead the Ladies of St. Anthony Altar Society and she served as its president for over forty consecutive years with humility, vigor, grace, and dedication; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Young worked tirelessly to bring the women of the community together in fellowship, and in 1987, had the distinct honor of being chosen to be a part of the diocesan delegation that welcomed Pope John Paul II to New Orleans where she was able to touch his hand and receive communion from him during Mass; and

WHEREAS, a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., she provided a pillar of courage to countless people while serving as a "second mother" and mentor to many; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Young was a woman of great strength, grace, and dignity who lived a full, Christian life, always putting the Lord first in everything she did; and

WHEREAS, always striving for success in her endeavors and setting high standards for herself, she never settled for second best and always encouraged others to put their best foot forward; and

WHEREAS, family was very important to her and being an excellent cook, she enjoyed having her family with her and welcomed visitors into her home; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Slaughter Young leaves to mourn her passing and cherish unforgettable lifetime memories, her loving children Tammy, Gina, Gregory, and Roy Jr.; her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Allison Ellen Anastasia Marcel, Rivers Christopher Wayne, Princeton Joseph Cahee, Roy Joseph "Trey" Young III, Seth Michael

Young, Myles Hamilton Young, Gregory C. Young II, Darius L. Young, Kimberly Roberts, Pasquell Webb, Shanekia Cook, Nevaeh Blue, Aaliyah Frazier, and Allinah Frazier; one sister, Geneva Williams; one brother, D. J. Slaughter, and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and dear friends; and

WHEREAS, she was preceded in death by her parents, Cornelius and Ellen Slaughter Sr.; a sister, Martha Lyle; brothers, Morris Slaughter, Irving Slaughter, and Cornelius Slaughter Sr.; and one step-granddaughter Jasmine Blue; and

WHEREAS, the death of Shirley Slaughter Young has left a substantial void in the Lafayette community and a sense of loss in the citizens whose lives she touched, and her memory shall live forever in the minds and hearts of all those who knew and loved this remarkable lady.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Shirley Slaughter Young, records for posterity her outstanding achievements, and extends enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that she will forever bring to the Lafayette community, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Shirley Slaughter Young.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE