

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 9

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of John Melvin "Rock" Lee.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens of Louisiana learned of the death of John Melvin "Rock" Lee on February 16, 2018; and

WHEREAS, John Melvin Lee was the second of four children born to the union of Wilton and Louversa Francois Lee on July 17, 1945, in St. Martinville, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, he spent his elementary and high school years in Lake Charles, Louisiana, graduating from William Oscar Boston High School in 1964; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lee attended Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he played baseball on a full scholarship, and in 1969, he received his bachelor of science degree in vocational education; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation, he signed a semi-professional baseball contract but remained committed to continuing his education, and in 1978, received a master's degree in administration and supervision from the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lee worked more than thirty-five years with the Lafayette Parish School Board serving as a teacher of industrial arts, math, and carpentry; and

WHEREAS, in addition to teaching, he excelled in his chosen career path and became an assistant principal and, subsequently, principal at J. W. Faulk Elementary and assistant principal at Acadian Middle School; and

WHEREAS, he later became the principal of L. Leo Judice Elementary School, and in 2001, Mr. Lee retired from that position with more than thirty-five years of dedicated

service; and

WHEREAS, after retirement, Mr. Lee spent an additional six years as a substitute principal at various schools in Lafayette Parish; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lee was a motivated and active member in his community and his church, Immaculate Heart of Mary, where he served as an usher, Eucharistic Minister for the sick and homebound, and member of the Knights of Peter Claver; and

WHEREAS, one of his proudest accomplishments was coaching his daughters throughout their teenage years in basketball and softball, which resulted in both of them being awarded athletic scholarships; and

WHEREAS, as a result of his love of sports, Mr. Lee served the community by becoming an official with the Louisiana High School Athletic Association in Lafayette Parish for basketball and football and was privileged to have been selected as an official for several state championship games; and

WHEREAS, in his spare time, he was an outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing, hunting, and golf; and

WHEREAS, he also specialized in cabinet making and, most importantly, spending time with his family and friends as the life of the party; and

WHEREAS, John Melvin "Rock" Lee is survived by his two daughters, Nika Echols and Courtney Williams; four grandchildren, Anthony Eugene Echols, Aaron John Echols, Cordell "CJ" La'Michael Williams Jr., and Cynthia "Cindy" Lauren Williams; three siblings, Samuel Lee, Alice Hayward, and Wilton Lee; and numerous nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Wilton and Louversa Lee, as well as his adoring wife of thirty-one years, Cynthia; and

WHEREAS, with the death of John Melvin "Rock" Lee, Louisiana has lost one of its finest sons, a quintessential southern gentleman who loved his community and whose accomplishments have left an indelible mark upon his community, state, and nation; and

WHEREAS, the death of John Melvin "Rock" Lee has left a substantial void in the Lafayette community and a sense of loss in the citizens whose lives he touched, and his memory shall live forever in the minds and hearts of all those who knew and loved this remarkable gentleman.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of John Melvin "Rock" Lee, record for posterity his outstanding achievements, and extend enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that he brought 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 John Melvin "Rock" Lee.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE