

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 53

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences on the death of Dr. Dana Carpenter

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Dr. Dana  
3 Carpenter.

4 WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the  
5 House of Representatives learned of the death on April 12, 2019, of Dr. Dana Carpenter; he  
6 was seventy-four years old; and

7 WHEREAS, Dana met and married the love of his life, Barbara West; left to cherish  
8 fond memories are his wife, their son, Patrick, and his wife Christa, daughter, Erin, and  
9 extended family of siblings and relatives; and

10 WHEREAS, Dana earned a bachelor of science degree in speech and drama and  
11 English education from Grambling State University in 1967, a master's degree in speech  
12 education from Northwestern State University in 1970, and in 1977, he earned a Ph.D. in  
13 curriculum and instruction while simultaneously serving as coordinator of the English,  
14 speech, and journalism component of the Competency Based Teacher Education Program  
15 at Kansas State University; and

16 WHEREAS, after he acquired his doctorate, Dr. Carpenter accepted employment in  
17 1977 at Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge as an associate professor and  
18 coordinator in the university's Communication Skills Center with responsibilities for the  
19 administration of a federally funded Title III program, and thus began a long and successful  
20 tenure at Southern University; and

1           WHEREAS, from 1986 to 2016, Dr. Carpenter served at Southern University in the  
2 posts of professor, director of counseling and advisement in the Junior Division, teacher  
3 quality coordinator, associate vice chancellor for enrollment management in the University  
4 College, associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, dean of the University College,  
5 director of the Dual Enrollment, Trio Programs, and COMPASS Testing, interim associate  
6 vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, and director of Academic Outreach Programs with  
7 supervision over Upward Bound and Educational Talent Search; at the time of his passing,  
8 Dr. Carpenter was serving as the assistant to the senior associate vice chancellor for  
9 Academic Affairs; prior to his duties at Southern University, Dr. Carpenter taught and served  
10 in the administrations of the Calcasieu Parish school system and Kansas State University;  
11 and

12           WHEREAS, Dr. Carpenter was an experienced and prolific grant writer who  
13 obtained funds for tutorial and educational enrichment activities for fourth and fifth graders  
14 in learning Spanish, desktop newspaper publishing, engineering, architecture, and Louisiana  
15 culture, and he acquired grants to teach strategies to prevent substance abuse and family  
16 violence, train first-year principals and assist them with state certification, fund a dropout  
17 prevention program, and supply the components necessary for after-school and Saturday  
18 tutorial classes for students in all academic areas; a grant of more than \$500,000 also  
19 provided for a motivation and counseling program and visitation to schools; Dr. Carpenter  
20 was vigilant in his desire to improve the educational fortunes of students; and

21           WHEREAS, the diligent and vanguard work of Dr. Carpenter garnered much respect  
22 in the state and was recognized at the highest levels of leadership in Louisiana; in 1996,  
23 Governor Mike Foster appointed Dr. Carpenter to the Capital Area Human Service District  
24 Board as an advocate for developmental disabilities, where he served two years as board  
25 chairman; Dr. Carpenter was elected to the city of Baker school board in 1998, reelected in  
26 2002, and served several years as president and vice president; he was appointed in 1995 to  
27 the city of Baker Economic Development Commission by Mayor Bobby Simpson; and

28           WHEREAS, the organizations which were proud to claim Dr. Carpenter as a member  
29 include Phi Delta Kappa; Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, of which he was a life  
30 member and served as polemarch and president; the Krewe of Camelot, Incorporated;

1 Citizens for a Better Leland Community; Kiwanis International; the Louisiana School Board  
2 Association; the American Federation of Teachers; and the Louisiana Chapter of the Autistic  
3 Society; Dr. Carpenter was named College Teacher of the Year at Southern University in  
4 1992, received the Outstanding Service Award in 1991 from the National Academic  
5 Advisory Association, and received an Outstanding Developmental Educator's Award for  
6 the 1989-1990 academic year; and

7 WHEREAS, volumes of books could not contain the vast quantity of events, awards,  
8 appointments, and works that filled the life of Dr. Dana Carpenter; he was a visionary  
9 advocate for quality education for all; he worked to promote honesty and integrity in  
10 government, was a catalyst for the resolution of critical issues faced by students, and he was  
11 fully engaged in his quest to improve the lives and enhance the economic growth of all of  
12 the citizens he served; during his career, Dr. Carpenter mentored generations of leaders; his  
13 impact will forever remain in the Baker and Scotlandville communities in the form of the  
14 Dr. Dana Carpenter Scholarship that has been established for students in the City of Baker  
15 School System in his honor.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
17 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the  
18 death of Dr. Dana Carpenter and does hereby recognize and record for posterity his  
19 distinguished career of excellence and unyielding advocacy for educational equality.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
21 to Representative Barbara West Carpenter.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 53 Original

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Smith

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