

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 39

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUGHES

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana on the death of
Nathaniel Hawthorne "Nat" LaCour, Jr.

WHEREAS, Nathaniel Hawthorne "Nat" LaCour, Jr., was a lifelong New Orleanian;
he graduated from Walter Cohen High School and then Southern University, where he
earned bachelor's and master's degrees in biology; and

WHEREAS, Mr. LaCour began his career in education in 1961 as a high school
biology teacher at George Washington Carver High School; he became active in the
predominantly black teachers' union affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers
after seeing that the federation supported the integration of Louisiana schools; in 1972, his
local union merged with the predominantly white affiliate of the National Education
Association to form United Teachers of New Orleans; the new organization elected
Mr. LaCour to serve as its president; and

WHEREAS, Nat served as the president of the United Teachers of New Orleans from
1972 until 1998; in 1998, he became vice president of the American Federation of Teachers;
he served the national organization in various leadership capacities until he retired in 2008;
upon retirement, he was named secretary-treasurer emeritus; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. LaCour's leadership, the United Teachers of New Orleans
became the first teachers union in the deep South to obtain a collective bargaining agreement
with a local school system; he was committed to giving teachers the resources to improve
their craft, thus creating a better learning environment for students; and

WHEREAS, Mr. LaCour's lifetime of work on behalf of teachers and other school
employees created an enduring legacy; and

WHEREAS, he was a founding member of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, and he served on the boards of the Albert Shanker Institute, the National Democratic Institute, the A. Philip Randolph Institute, and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; and

WHEREAS, Nat LaCour leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Connie Goodly-LaCour; daughters, Carla LaCour Goudia and Charlette LaCour; stepsons, Chris and Stephen Goodly; sister, Gwendolyn Alexander; nine grandchildren; and a great-grandchild; and

WHEREAS, Nat LaCour was a selfless man who placed the needs of teachers and students above his own; he was a truly admirable individual, and he will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Nathaniel Hawthorne "Nat" LaCour, Jr.; does hereby offer sincere gratitude for Mr. LaCour's unrelenting commitment towards the betterment of the education system in New Orleans, in Louisiana, and in the entire nation; and does hereby extend sincere hopes and wishes that his family find comfort during this difficult time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the family of Nathaniel Hawthorne "Nat" LaCour, Jr.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE