

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 168

BY REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Bertha Bradford Robinson.

WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing of Bertha Bradford Robinson; and

WHEREAS, Bertha Bradford Robinson was born on August 20, 1946, to Mattie Esther and Leamon Bradford in Jonesboro, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Bertha accepted Christ at an early age at Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church and remained faithful until her passing; she served in numerous ministries, and her roles included serving as youth director, Sunday school teacher, Baptist Training Union director, Vacation Bible School director, and chair of the deaconess ministry; and

WHEREAS, Bertha became highly involved in civil rights activism as a student at Jackson High School from which she graduated in 1964; and

WHEREAS, Bertha enrolled at Grambling College, which is now Grambling State University; in 1965, she became the first African-American woman to matriculate at Louisiana Tech University; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Robinson struggled with racism while studying at Louisiana Tech and chose to leave; she returned in 1973 to complete her original mission, and in 1976 she received a bachelor of science degree in early childhood education; and

WHEREAS, Bertha joined Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, while attending Louisiana Tech; and

WHEREAS, Bertha went on to earn a master's degree and specialist degree from Northwestern State University; she also received an honorary doctorate degree from Louisiana Tech University, and in 2016, the university established the James Potts/Bertha Robinson Scholarship Fund; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Robinson was immensely proud of these accomplishments, but her highest honor was to serve as the Louisiana Tech University 2020 Fall Commencement speaker; and

WHEREAS, Bertha was a genuine supporter of children, and she believed that all children had the capacity to learn; she owned and operated a daycare center in Jonesboro for five years and then began a career with the Jackson Parish School Board that spanned forty years, during which she served as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, and director of federal programs; and

WHEREAS, Bertha retired in 2016; however, she remained active in her advocacy for education by serving as a consultant to schools throughout Louisiana, and she contributed her time to various boards and civic organizations that work to improve the state's schools; she also offered free tutoring to children in her community; and

WHEREAS, Bertha Robinson's love and legacy will continue to live on through her husband, Harvey T. Robinson; her daughters, Yumeaka Washington, and her husband Ronald, and Esther Jewettá Robinson; her grandson, Brett Bernard Washington; her siblings, Mary Hoover, James Bradford, Glory White, and her husband McArthur, Charlean Nelson, and Vivian Bradley; her sister-in-law, Ella Morris; her god-siblings, Marietta Leonard and James "Jimmy" Wilson; and a host of extended family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Bertha Bradford Robinson was a true champion of children and she is most deserving of recognition for her inspiring work.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Bertha Bradford Robinson; does hereby recognize Bertha's unrelenting commitment to the children of Louisiana; and does hereby extend sincere wishes that her family and friends find comfort knowing that she is at home with God in Heaven.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Bertha Bradford Robinson.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES