

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 57

BY SENATOR FIELDS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of Mr. Clovis Hayes.

WHEREAS, it is with great regret and profound sorrow that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing of Clovis Hayes on May 3, 2022, at the age of eighty-seven; and

WHEREAS, Clovis was born on September 13, 1934, on a small farm in Clinton, Louisiana, to Gravile and Clara Hayes, and was the youngest of their twelve children; and

WHEREAS, having only obtained a sixth grade education, Clovis could have never imagined that he would grow up to make history by becoming the first black city bus driver in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, at the age of twenty-four, Clovis started working for the Baton Rouge Bus Company, now known as the Capital Area Transportation System (CATS), as a mechanic and janitor for one dollar and twenty-seven cents per hour; and

WHEREAS, upon the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Clovis was asked by the president of the bus company, Pinky Jenkins, to become a bus driver; and

WHEREAS, no white bus drivers wanted to train black bus drivers, so the president would ride with him, and after six weeks of training, his salary was increased to one dollar and ninety-seven cents per hour; and

WHEREAS, Clovis's first route was on Capitol Avenue, later changed to Gus Young Avenue and East Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, Clovis spent much of his time driving routes in both black and white neighborhoods and training other black bus drivers; and

WHEREAS, he particularly enjoyed driving college students in the Baton Rouge area, spending many weekends driving special charters for the Louisiana State University football team and the Southern University Human Jukebox Band; and

WHEREAS, he was personally requested by Dr. Isaac Greggs to transport the Human Jukebox because he loved how Clovis took care of the students that were in his care while driving; and

WHEREAS, Clovis strictly enforced company rules and policies and remained calm and professional at all times, even when dealing with passengers who were unhappy to be driven by a black man; and

WHEREAS, Clovis earned the nickname "Bam-Bam" from his son, Juan, who would visit the bus station often as a young boy; and

WHEREAS, Clovis retired in April of 2000, having worked for the bus company for forty-one years; and

WHEREAS, Clovis was president of the usher board at Beech Grove Baptist Church in Clinton, Louisiana, and was always willing to help anyone in need of a ride or a good conversation; and

WHEREAS, Clovis was preceded in death by his wife, Mildred Booker-Hayes, who he was happily married to for fifty-five years; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his four children, Weverlyn Lachas Hayes-Conner, Juan Deandre Hayes, Telita Juanetta Hayes-Reese, and Natasha Lenise Hayes; eleven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Clovis will be remembered for his caring nature, his love of family, and as a trailblazer for black bus drivers in Baton Rouge.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the passing of Mr. Clovis Hayes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his daughter, Telita Hayes.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES