

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Ambassador Joseph served as Vice President of Cummins Engine
3 Company, the world's largest producer of heavy-duty diesel engines where he was a pioneer
4 in corporate social responsibility; and

5 WHEREAS, as an ordained minister, Ambassador Joseph taught at Yale Divinity
6 School and the Claremont Colleges where he also was University Chaplain and led student
7 protests against the war in Vietnam; and

8 WHEREAS, Ambassador Joseph was professor emeritus of the practice of public
9 policy at the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University and founder of the United
10 States-Southern Africa Center for Leadership and Public Values, a joint endeavor between
11 Duke University and the University of Cape Town; and

12 WHEREAS, Ambassador Joseph graduated from Southern University in 1956 and
13 obtained a master's degree from Yale Divinity School in 1963; and

14 WHEREAS, after hurricanes Rita and Katrina decimated south Louisiana, Governor
15 Kathleen Blanco named him Chair of the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Louisiana
16 (formerly the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation); and

17 WHEREAS, he was honored as a Louisiana Legend in 2006, was inducted into the
18 Louisiana Political Hall of Fame in 2008, and is a member of the Opelousas Hall of Fame;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Ambassador Joseph authored four books: *The Charitable Impulse*;
21 *Remaking-America*; *Leadership as a Way of Being*; and *Saved for a Purpose: A Journey*
22 *from Private Virtues to Public Values*; and

23 WHEREAS, Ambassador Joseph is the recipient of nineteen honorary degrees and
24 a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and Sigma Pi Phi; and

25 WHEREAS, Ambassador Joseph is mourned by his loving wife, the former Mary
26 Braxton of Sarasota, Florida - an Emmy Award winning television journalist; his son Jeffery
27 and daughter-in-law Lisa Merman; daughter Denise, and his beloved nieces and nephews;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents Adam and Julia Joseph, as well
30 as Doris Taylor Joseph, his wife of 33 years, and his brother John who was elected as the

1 first Black mayor of Opelousas, Louisiana, in 1986; and

2 WHEREAS, a memorial service was held for Ambassador Joseph at the National
3 Cathedral in Washington, D.C. on April 25, 2023; and

4 WHEREAS, it is with great sadness that the passing of Ambassador James A. Joseph,
5 beloved husband, father, grandfather, and public servant is acknowledged.

6 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
7 express sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family of Ambassador James Alfred Joseph
8 upon the occasion of his passing, a great loss to the state and citizens of Louisiana.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his
10 wife, Mary Braxton and his children, Jeffery and Denise.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Dawn Romero Watson.

SCR 39 Original

DIGEST
2023 Regular Session

Boudreaux

Expresses condolences upon the passing of Ambassador James Alfred Joseph.