

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 137

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARPENTER

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of Janice Rae Anderson Williams.

WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of Representatives has learned of the passing of Janice Rae Anderson Williams; and

WHEREAS, Janice was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on August 21, 1940, to David Sylvester Anderson, Sr., and Lou Edna Cage Anderson; she was the seventh born of ten siblings, and she was baptized at an early age by Reverend Ferdinand Kelly at Mount Zion Baptist Church of Scotlandville; and

WHEREAS, Janice graduated as the salutatorian of the class of 1959 at Scotlandville High School, and she was most proud of being a founding member of the "Personality Club"; she attended Southern University where she served as an associate feature editor for *Southern Digest* and graduated in 1964 with a bachelor's degree in speech pathology; and

WHEREAS, Janice began working as a speech therapist with the East Baton Rouge Parish School System immediately after graduating; on December 19, 1964, she was united in holy matrimony to Leodrey Williams by Reverend Kelly, and their union was blessed with three children, Christopher, Crystal, and Erica; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Williams and her family moved to Rayville, Louisiana, in 1966, and she continued her work as a speech therapist with the Richland Parish School System; and

WHEREAS, after six years in Richland Parish, the Williams family returned to East Baton Rouge Parish, and joined Evening Star Baptist Church in Baker, Louisiana; in her second stint with the East Baton Rouge Parish School System, Mrs. Williams taught English

as a second language to Vietnamese refugees; she continued her education, earning a master's degree from Southern University and her master's plus thirty while studying at both Northeast Louisiana University and Louisiana State University; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Williams served as an adjunct instructor of orofacial disorders in the Southern University Special Education Department and as a speech pathologist at the former Walnut Hills Elementary School; in 1989, she was chosen to serve as principal of the Dufrocq School; she transferred to Harding Elementary School and served there until her retirement in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Janice became a member of the Mu Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., after pledging in 1988, and she truly cherished her beloved sisterhood; she was also a member of the Southern University Alumni Federation; and

WHEREAS, Janice Rae Anderson Williams leaves to cherish her truly beautiful memory her devoted husband of fifty-eight years, Leodrey Williams; son, Christopher Dale Williams, and his wife Beanka; daughters, Crystal Williams Gordon, and her husband Oscar, and Erica Williams Mitchell, and her husband Antoine; grandchildren, Brianna Janai Williams, Christopher Dillon Williams, Anderson Mitchell Gordon, and Owen Williams Gordon; sisters, Margaret A. Jackson and Gladys A. Parker, and her husband Sam; brothers, Monroe Anderson, Sr., and Leon Anderson, Sr.; sister-in-law, Cynthia Williams Brown, and her husband George; godchild, Betty L. Freeman; and a host of nieces, nephews, extended relatives, and friends; she will be deeply missed but certainly never forgotten.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Janice Rae Anderson Williams and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that her family, friends, and loved ones find comfort in their shared memories of her beautiful life.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES