

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 148

BY REPRESENTATIVE PRESSLY

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Dr. William James Gillespie on the occasion of his retirement

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Dr. William James Gillespie on the occasion of his retirement.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. William James Gillespie is the longtime principal of First Baptist
4 Church School in Shreveport, Louisiana, and a pillar of his community; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Gillespie received a bachelor of science degree from Centenary
6 College of Louisiana in 1969, a master of education degree from Memphis State University
7 in 1970, and an educational doctorate degree from Northwestern State University in 1987;
8 his doctoral dissertation studied the effect of merit pay on teacher performance in ArkLaTex
9 schools; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Gillespie served in numerous roles throughout his fifty-two year
11 career in education, starting as a physical education, math, and social studies teacher at
12 Linwood Middle School in 1971 and retiring as principal of First Baptist Church School; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Gillespie served more than a decade as a school counselor at various
14 schools throughout Shreveport including Bethune Middle School, Valencia Middle School,
15 Lakeshore Elementary/Middle School, Turner Elementary/Middle School, and Captain
16 Shreve High School; in 1987, he accepted the role of principal at Hendrix Elementary
17 School, and after four years, he transferred to Riverside Elementary School; he spent the
18 final seventeen years of his career serving as principal of First Baptist Church School; and

19 WHEREAS, in addition to his impressive career as a teacher, counselor, and
20 principal, Dr. Gillespie led an altruistic life of faith-driven humanitarian service; his efforts
21 include leading and coordinating thirty-five mission trips to Ekaterinburg, Russia, beginning

1 in 1991, delivering eighty tons of food and medical supplies to crisis impacted families and
2 verifying and supervising their distribution; he played a pivotal role in the development of
3 Vacation Bible School, Bible studies, and leadership training; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Gillespie's awards and achievements include being a finalist for the
5 1994 Caddo Association of Educators Educator of the Year Award and elementary regional
6 finalist for the 1997 Louisiana Principal of the Year Award; he served as president of the
7 Caddo Parish School Counselors Association in 1980 and completed the Louisiana Teacher
8 Assistance and Assessment Program in 2006; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. William James Gillespie is an incredibly inspiring man, and he is
10 most deserving of the highest recognition for dedicating more than fifty years of service to
11 education.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
13 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Dr. William James Gillespie on the occasion
14 of his retirement and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that he continue to prosper in all
15 of his endeavors as he begins a new journey in retirement.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 148 Original

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Pressly

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