

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 157

BY REPRESENTATIVES COX AND BAGLEY

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences on the death of Vida Rochelle Blue, Jr.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Vida
3 Rochelle Blue, Jr.

4 WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of
5 Representatives has learned of the passing, on May 6, 2023, of former Major League
6 Baseball (MLB) All-Star pitcher, Vida Rochelle Blue, Jr.; and

7 WHEREAS, Vida Rochelle Blue, Jr., was born on July 28, 1949, in Mansfield,
8 Louisiana, and was the oldest of six children born to Vida Blue, Sr., and Sallie Blue; he
9 attended DeSoto High School where he starred as a pitcher and quarterback; during his
10 senior year, in football, he threw for more than three thousand yards and thirty-five
11 touchdown passes while also rushing for over one thousand five hundred yards and in a
12 baseball game he pitched a no-hitter with twenty-one strikeouts in seven innings; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Blue eventually reached the major leagues as a result of his
14 immense talent across a variety of sports; he forged an all-star career as a fast-paced pitcher
15 who pounded the strike zone with a powerful fastball and worked in occasional off-speed
16 pitches to keep hitters guessing; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Blue was drafted in the second round of the 1967 MLB Draft by
18 the Kansas City Athletics; despite having scholarship offers to play collegiate football at the
19 University of Notre Dame, Purdue University, and the University of Houston, he chose to
20 sign with the Athletics to help support his family after his father's passing; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Blue made his major league debut on July 20, 1969, against the
2 California Angels and enjoyed an incredibly successful seventeen-year pitching career in the
3 major leagues; he pitched for three MLB franchises, the Athletics, Giants, and Royals, and
4 was named to six All-Star teams; the most notable stretch of his career came during his time
5 with the Athletics, with whom he won three consecutive World Series between 1972 and
6 1974, was named American League MVP in 1971, and pitched a no-hitter; he finished his
7 career with a 209-161 record, a 3.27 ERA, and 2,175 strikeouts, and he was inducted into
8 both the Athletics Hall of Fame and the San Francisco Giants Wall of Fame; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Blue was a civic-minded individual; in 1971, he accompanied Bob
10 Hope on his USO Christmas tour of Vietnam and military installations; he remained active
11 in a number of other charitable causes including Safeway All Stars Challenge Sports, various
12 automobile donations, celebrity golf tournaments, and charities for children; he was also
13 active in promoting baseball in Costa Rica; and

14 WHEREAS, Vida Rochelle Blue, Jr., brought immense pride to the state of Louisiana
15 as a star pitcher in MLB and as a charitable community servant; he will be deeply missed
16 but his legacy will continue to live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
18 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Vida
19 Rochelle Blue, Jr.; does hereby recognize Mr. Blue's incredible professional sports legacy
20 and his status as an MLB icon; and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that his family,
21 friends, and loved ones find comfort in their shared memories of his accomplishments.

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 157 Original

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Cox

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