

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 157

BY REPRESENTATIVES COX AND BAGLEY

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Blue made his major league debut on July 20, 1969, against the California Angels and enjoyed an incredibly successful seventeen-year pitching career in the major leagues; he pitched for three MLB franchises, the Athletics, Giants, and Royals, and was named to six All-Star teams; the most notable stretch of his career came during his time

with the Athletics, with whom he won three consecutive World Series between 1972 and 1974, was named American League MVP in 1971, and pitched a no-hitter; he finished his career with a 209-161 record, a 3.27 ERA, and 2,175 strikeouts, and he was inducted into both the Athletics Hall of Fame and the San Francisco Giants Wall of Fame; and

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES