

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 129

BY SENATOR FIELDS

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Maelen Charles "Choo-Choo" Brooks.

WHEREAS, it was with profound sorrow that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana learned that Maelen Charles "Choo-Choo" Brooks, departed this life on Sunday, May 14, 2023, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Maelen Charles "Choo-Choo" Brooks was the son of the late Charles Brooks and the late Inez Smith Brooks, born in Ross, California, on January 8, 1946; and

WHEREAS, he spent his childhood in California, Alaska, and Chicago, finally making Baton Rouge, Louisiana, his home; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brooks was educated at his beloved McKinley Senior High School, where he was a member of the graduating class of 1964; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brooks succeeded both in and out of the classroom, excelling in academics and sports; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brooks was an All-American football player and captain of the track and field teams; and

WHEREAS, in his track events, Mr. Brooks was known for his speed, running the 100-, 200-, and 400-yard dashes, the third leg on the 4x400 meter relay, and the anchor leg on the 4x100 meter relay; and

WHEREAS, as a high school junior in 1963, Mr. Brooks was state champion in the 100-yard dash; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brooks was also a part of the 1963-1964 District Champions Track & Field team, where he helped lead his team to victory; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brooks later took his talents to Grambling State University where he played football under the legendary Coach Eddie G. Robinson Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brooks was a member of the winning All-American Conference

Championship team of 1965; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brooks was introduced to Jehovah Witness at an early age under the direction of his mother, and on December 18, 1993, he committed to the truth for himself, living twenty-nine years in the truth until his transition; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brooks attended the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Baton Rouge located on 22nd Street, and his faith was strong as he went door-to-door as a devoted Witness, preaching and teaching the good news of God's incoming kingdom according to Matthew 24:14; and

WHEREAS, service to others was Mr. Brooks' calling; "Coach Choo", as he was affectionately called by many, filled the roles of mentor, coach, advisor, and spiritual counselor through his commitment with the South Baton Rouge Rams, Keeping Young (K-Y) Track Club, BREC, and Sports Academy; and

WHEREAS, he served over forty years with the Lester Robinson BREC Sports Academy, retiring in 2013, but continuing to have a significant impact on youth in his community; and

WHEREAS, widely known as "Choo-Choo", Mr. Brooks was both a respected member of his community and a friend to the community in which he lived and served; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brooks married the love of his life, Martha King Brooks, on August 21, 1993, and they enjoyed the excellence of love found in 1 Corinthians 12:4-8 until her death; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brooks was a father figure to many, sharing a unique bond with the Smothers children after the death of their mother; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brooks was preceded in death by his mother, Inez Smith Brooks; his father, Charles Brooks; his wife, Martha King Brooks; and his grandparents, Olivia and Charlie Smith; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brooks leaves to cherish his memory two sisters, Bonnie Brooks and Puneller Harden of Baton Rouge, and a host of family and friends, especially those he loved and coached as children; he will truly be missed; and

WHEREAS, a farewell to Coach Choo would not be complete without yelling, "When you gon run?".

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana expresses heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Maelen Charles "Choo-Choo" Brooks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Maelen Charles "Choo-Choo" Brooks.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE