

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 154

BY SENATOR BOUIE

A RESOLUTION

To commend Reverend Dr. Ernest Marcelle Jr. upon his many accomplishments.

WHEREAS, born in 1936, Reverend Dr. Ernest Marcelle Jr., a native of Gonzales, Louisiana, was born in 1936 to the union of his proud parents Lessie Robinson and Ernest Marcelle Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Marcelle Jr. began working with Reverend T.J. Jemison in 1953, in which he played an integral role in a bus boycott by transporting people to and from work and was successful at integrating the bus system; and

WHEREAS, in 1954 he played an integral role in another successful bus boycott to get black bus drivers, a vision which was achieved; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation from Prairieville High School in 1955, Reverend Dr. Ernest Marcelle Jr. served in the United States Air Force as an air control technician working on fighter planes; and

WHEREAS, after leaving the United States Air Force, Ernest Marcelle Jr. moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, where he began working for Shelby Construction Company, starting as a receiving clerk and finishing his tenure as a supervisor of construction in Terrytown; and

WHEREAS, from 1963 to 1967 Reverend Dr. Ernest Marcelle Jr. worked for the Boeing Company at their Michoud as a supervisor of the parts department; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, Reverend Dr. Ernest Marcelle Jr. became Louisiana's first black state trooper with the Louisiana State Police where he served until 1976; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Marcelle Jr. served as a body guard and driver in various roles, including the detective bureau, Governor John McKeithen's security team and occasionally as a bodyguard for Governor Edwin Edwards; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Ernest Marcelle Jr., an active participant in the National

Association of Black Police Officers, organized a local chapter in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Ernest Marcelle Jr. filed a civil lawsuit against the Louisiana State Police for passing him over for promotions, despite being employed with the agency for nine years and by then earned a bachelor's degree in criminology from Loyola University; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Marcelle Jr. was summarily terminated, and although he was victorious in his civil lawsuit, the state did not honor the terms of judgment; and

WHEREAS, in 2004 Ernest Marcelle Jr. was inducted into the hall of fame in the Line of Duty Museum in New York; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Ernest Marcelle Jr.'s many accomplishments include serving as a board member for the African-American Museum in Donaldsonville, Louisiana, being inducted in the hall of fame at the Lion of Judah Museum in New York, volunteering as a chaplain for the Louisiana state prison system, being a member of the disabled veterans of American and served as the president of the counsel of Presidents of the cooperative school club for ten years; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Ernest Marcelle Jr. earned a master's degree in theology from the McKinley Theological Seminar in Jackson, Mississippi, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the A.P. Clay Bible College, served as an assistant pastor for Prayer Tower Church of God in Christ for a number of years, two years as a Pastor at Jerusalem Church of God in Christ, and now an associate pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Ernest Marcelle Jr. received numerous accolades and honors for his civic activism and community service including the Outside Service to the Community award, as well as the Unsung Hero award; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Ernest Marcelle Jr. has made significant contributions to our nation, the state of Louisiana, and the community through his service in the Air Force and Louisiana State Police, as well as his leadership in civil rights activism and community organizations; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Marcelle Jr.'s groundbreaking achievements as Louisiana's first black state trooper and his numerous accolades and honors for his civic activism and

community service serve as an inspiration to future generations; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Ernest Marcelle Jr.'s continued dedication to serving his community as a volunteer chaplain, board member, and associate pastor demonstrates his unwavering commitment to being a public servant and improving the lives of others.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Reverend Dr. Ernest Marcelle Jr. for his many accomplishments and thank him for his service to our country, state, and community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Reverend Dr. Ernest Marcelle Jr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE