

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 264

BY REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE

COMMENDATIONS: Commends the Reverend Dr. Ernest Marcelle, Jr., for his lifetime of civic and community service

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Reverend Dr. Ernest Marcelle, Jr., for his lifetime of civic and community
3 service.

4 WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Ernest Marcelle, Jr., was born in 1936 to Lessie Robinson
5 and Ernest Marcelle, Sr., and is a native of Gonzales, Louisiana; and

6 WHEREAS, Ernest played a pivotal role during the movement to integrate bus
7 systems; he worked with Reverend Dr. T.J. Jemison in 1953 to facilitate a bus boycott by
8 transporting people to and from work, and in 1954, he joined another successful bus boycott
9 to demand employment of black bus drivers; and

10 WHEREAS, Ernest graduated from Prairieville High School in 1955; he then joined
11 the United States Air Force as an air control technician working on fighter planes; after
12 leaving the Air Force, he moved to New Orleans and began working for Shelby Construction
13 Company; he started as a receiving clerk and finished his tenure as a supervisor of
14 construction in Terrytown, Louisiana; he also worked as a supervisor in the parts department
15 of Boeing Company at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility from 1963 until 1967; and

16 WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Marcelle became the first black state trooper to serve the
17 Louisiana State Police in 1967; he served as a body guard and driver for governors John
18 McKeithen and Edwin Edwards; and

19 WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Marcelle was an active participant in the National
20 Association of Black Police Officers, and he founded a local chapter in 1973; he filed a civil
21 lawsuit against the Louisiana State Police for passing him over for promotions despite

1 having served for nine years and holding a bachelor's degree in criminology from Loyola
2 University of New Orleans; Ernest was victorious in his lawsuit, but the state did not honor
3 the terms of judgment; and

4 WHEREAS, in 2004, Reverend Dr. Marcelle was inducted into the hall of fame in
5 the Line of Duty Museum in New York; his accomplishments include serving as a board
6 member for the African-American Museum in Donaldsonville, Louisiana, being inducted
7 in the hall of fame at the Lion of Judah Museum in New York, volunteering as a chaplain
8 for the Louisiana state prison system, being a member of the disabled veterans of America,
9 and serving as president of the council of presidents of the cooperative school club for ten
10 years; and

11 WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Marcelle earned a master's degree in theology from
12 McKinley Theological Seminar in Jackson, Mississippi, and a doctor of philosophy degree
13 from A.P. Clay Bible College; he served as an assistant pastor for Prayer Tower Church of
14 God in Christ for a number of years and as pastor at Jerusalem Church of God in Christ for
15 two years; he now serves as an associate pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New
16 Orleans, Louisiana; and

17 WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Marcelle has received numerous accolades and honors
18 for his civic activism and community service including the Outside Service to the
19 Community award and the Unsung Hero award; and

20 WHEREAS, Ernest Marcelle, Jr.'s groundbreaking achievements as Louisiana's first
21 black state trooper and his numerous accolades and honors for his civic activism and
22 community service serve as an inspiration to future generations; his continued dedication to
23 serving his community as a volunteer chaplain, board member, and associate pastor
24 demonstrates his unwavering commitment to being a public servant and improving the lives
25 of others.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
27 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Reverend Dr. Ernest Marcelle, Jr., for
28 his lifetime of civic and community service and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that he
29 continue to prosper in all of his endeavors.

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 264 Original

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Marcelle

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