

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 294

BY REPRESENTATIVE LAFLEUR

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Doveal Austin Essex.

WHEREAS, Doveal Austin Essex was born Naomi Doveal Austin on May 9, 1921, in Ponchatoula, Louisiana, to Johnie Austin and Katie Cousin Austin; she was christened at Tasker's Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Ponchatoula; and

WHEREAS, Doveal attended elementary school at Ponchatoula's Rosenwald School; she graduated from Kentwood Tangipahoa Parish Training School and enrolled at the formerly named Louisiana Negro Normal, now known as Grambling State University; she graduated in May 1945 with a bachelor of science degree in education and began her professional career as a teacher in Ponchatoula; she later earned a master's degree at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor; and

WHEREAS, Doveal married Henry Leroy Essex on October 11, 1945; Mrs. Essex moved to Grambling to take a position at Grambling's Demonstration School where she taught until 1953; the Essex family increased with the birth of two daughters, Constant Elizabeth and Sylvia Marie; and

WHEREAS, the Essex family moved to Baton Rouge where Mrs. Essex worked as an elementary school teacher until she accepted a position at Southern University's College of Education; she worked at Southern University until her retirement, in 1976, after thirty years of dedicated service; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Essex was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Scotlandville where she served as a Sunday School teacher and president of the Women of the Church; she also volunteered with Red Cross and Meals on Wheels; she was docent and member of the Louisiana Arts and Science Museum Board and held membership in the Gamma Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Baton Rouge Chapter of The Links, Inc., and many other civic organizations; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Essex was a recipient of the Silver Magnolia Award from the Women's Council of Greater Baton Rouge for her community service; and

WHEREAS, Doveal Austin Essex was a true light in the Baton Rouge community; she gave selflessly to others throughout the course of her inspiring life, and she will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of sharing in her beautiful light.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Doveal Austin Essex and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that her family, friends, and loved ones find comfort in their shared memories of her beautiful life.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES