

2023 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 208

BY SENATOR BARROW

CONDOLENCES. Expresses sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Doveal Essex.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of
3 Doveal Austin Essex.

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

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

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

17 WHEREAS, the Essex family moved to Baton Rouge where Mrs. Essex worked as
18 an elementary school teacher until she accepted a position at Southern University's College

1 of Education; she worked at Southern University until her retirement in 1976, after thirty
2 years of dedicated service; and

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

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

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

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

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Kathy Liberty.

SR 208 Original	DIGEST 2023 Regular Session	Barrow
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Expresses condolences upon the death of Doveal Essex.