

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 13

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Dr. Gloria Jackson Bacon.

WHEREAS, it is with immense regret and profound sadness that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing of Dr. Gloria Jackson Bacon on February 9, 2024, at the age of eighty-six; and

WHEREAS, Gloria was born on September 21, 1937, in New Orleans, Louisiana, to Henry Johnson, a postal clerk, and Vina Johnson, a schoolteacher; Gloria was proud of her family's history and traditions; she was close with her parents, to whom she attributed her success; their guidance propelled and guided her to give back to the community as an advocate on healthcare issues for the medically underserved; and

WHEREAS, Gloria graduated from McDonough 35 High School; in 1958, she earned a bachelor of science degree from Xavier University of Louisiana; Gloria attended the University of Illinois School of Medicine, where, in 1962, she earned her doctor of medicine degree; Dr. Bacon earned a master's degree in public health from the University of Illinois School of Public Health in 1984; in 2006, at the age of sixty-nine, she earned a master's degree in social sciences from the University of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, in 1964 Gloria began working at a public health clinic in an impoverished community on Chicago's south side, and in 1970 she founded The Clinic at Altgeld; the clinic provided care to thousands of patients annually; The Clinic at Altgeld had an enormous impact in the area, most notably, the community's infant mortality rate dropped from 50.2 deaths per thousand in 1970 to 9.2 deaths per thousand by 1990; Dr. Bacon retired as medical director in 1997, after thirty years of serving the medically underserved; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bacon's community service extended beyond her medical practice; she became only the second black woman to be elected to statewide office in Illinois when she was elected to the University of Illinois Board of Trustees; Gloria earned many awards over the course of her career, including Alumni of the Year from Xavier University, Pioneers in Medicine from the Cook County Physicians Association, the History Makers, Inc., Award in Medicine, Alumni of the Year from University of Illinois College of Medicine, and Chicagoan of the Year from *Chicago Magazine*; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 Dr. Bacon returned to New Orleans in response to a call for physicians in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and served as an ambulatory care services physician at LSU Hospitals Health Care Services Division; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bacon served on numerous boards, including Pullman Bank, the Chicago Network, Provident Hospital and Medical Center, Fisk University board of trustees, Illinois Family Planning Council, and Congregational Church of Park Manor board of trustees; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bacon is survived by her daughters, Constance Jackson and Judith Jackson Fossett; stepsons, Philip Bacon, Geoffrey Bacon, and Stuart Bacon; grandson, Alden Fossett; sister, Joyce Johnson Burton; niece, Valerie Burton; nephew, Theodore Burton, Jr.; and a host of relatives and friends; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gloria Jackson Bacon is most deserving of the highest recognition for her incredible accomplishments and for her unrelenting dedication to serving those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the passing of Dr. Gloria Jackson Bacon; does hereby recognize her incredible accomplishments; 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