

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 24

BY SENATOR STINE

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Pastor Jimmy Stevens.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the passing of Pastor Jimmy Ray Stevens on January 31, 2024, at the age of sixty-seven has been learned; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Ray Stevens was born and raised in Westlake, and he spent nearly half of his life preaching; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Westlake High School, Jimmy Stevens obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from McNeese State University where he made several contributions to the university; he was the co-founder of the Voices of Truth Gospel Choir, which is the higher-level gospel choir of McNeese, and he was the president to the Student Congress of African American Culture at McNeese, leading to the hiring of more black professors at that university; and

WHEREAS, he continued his education through post-graduate studies at New Orleans Seminary which led to pursuing and obtaining a Master of Theology from Cornerstone University and, ultimately, he received a Doctor of Ministry from Lake Charles Bible College; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Stevens got his start at the Straightway Baptist Church in Moss Bluff in 1982 before he began preaching at Zion Tabernacle Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, while preaching at Zion Tabernacle Baptist Church, Pastor Stevens played a major role in developing ministry to young adults in the church and providing outreach to students at McNeese State University; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Pastor Stevens became the founding pastor of the New Covenant Faith Baptist Church in Lake Charles; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Stevens authored numerous books including *Your Riches in Jesus Christ*, *New Beginnings*, and *Champions of Faith*; and

WHEREAS, as a highly-involved member of the Lake Charles community, Pastor Stevens led several local religious organizations and is a former president of the National Baptist Junior Convention USA, Inc., as well as other community, state, and national affiliations; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Stevens is preceded in death by his parents Reverend Willie Stevens and Rose Thomas Stevens; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Stevens leaves to cherish his memory, his wife of forty years Sister Patricia Stevens; his daughter, Jamie Patrice Stevens Harrison and her husband JJ Harrison; his grandsons, Jeremiah Patrick Stevens and, recently born, Jaxson and Jayson Harrison; Jru Tanner, Jayden, McKenzie, and Hailyn Harrison who knew him as Paw Paw Jimmy; his brothers, Charles W. Stevens and his wife Malinda, Reverend Dr. Paul D. Stevens Sr. and his wife Belinda, Reverend Dr. Mitchell J. Stevens Sr. and his wife Kerri, Anthony L. Stevens and his wife LaTisha; his sisters, Bonita Malbrew and her husband Donald, and Serena Goodwin and her husband Chester; and a host of nieces, nephews, friends, and family members; and

WHEREAS, he represented all that is good about Louisiana as a man with unique gifts and a charitable spirit, and with his passing, Louisiana has lost one of its finest citizens, who left an indelible mark on the lives of the many individuals he touched with his truly inspiring qualities, and who is now terribly missed but will never be forgotten.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences on the death of Pastor Jimmy Stevens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his wife, Sister Patricia Stevens.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE