

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 198

BY REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON

A RESOLUTION

To commend Maxine Elizabeth Sarpy for her lifetime of work in civil and voting rights.

WHEREAS, Mrs. Maxine Elizabeth Prescott Sarpy exemplifies a legacy of resilience, leadership, and activism, and she stands as a trailblazer and a beacon of hope for future generations; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, Maxine was one of the first African American students to graduate from the University of Texas School of Nursing in Galveston, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sarpy's commitment to education extended beyond her own achievements, serving as an instructor at the University of Texas School of Nursing, imparting knowledge and inspiration to countless students; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, Mrs. Sarpy moved to Shreveport, Louisiana, where she immediately immersed herself in the civil rights movement, collaborating with local leaders on vital voter registration campaigns and initiatives, and significantly increasing voter participation and representation; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sarpy fearlessly confronted racial injustice in various spheres, including her leadership in the integration of businesses; her pivotal role in launching legal actions to reform the city government of Shreveport; and advocating for equal opportunities for African Americans to serve in positions of governance; and

WHEREAS, in 1966 Mrs. Sarpy was called upon by U.S. attorney general, Nicholas Katzenbach, to assist federal registers in the implementation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sarpy's commitment to community service and empowerment extends beyond the realms of civil rights activism; she has served in numerous leadership roles, including being the first woman to serve on Shreveport's city council, and membership on the Caddo-Bossier Port Commission and the State Fair of Louisiana Board; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sarpy's dedication to her family, faith, and community is exemplified by her active involvement in church ministries, her service as a mentor and leader in various organizations, and her unwavering commitment to uplifting those around her.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Maxine Elizabeth Sarpy for her lifetime of work in civil and voting rights and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that she continue to prosper in all of her endeavors.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES