

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 217

BY REPRESENTATIVE WALTERS

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences on the death of Robert Lee Burton

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Robert Lee
3 Burton.

4 WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of
5 Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing, on April 24,
6 2024, of Robert Lee Burton; and

7 WHEREAS, Robert Lee Burton was born on March 1, 1940, in Shreveport,
8 Louisiana, and he was the fourth of eight children born to TC Burton and Beatrice Tannehill;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Robert was educated in the Caddo Parish public school system, and he
11 graduated from the historic Booker T. Washington High School in 1959; he was also an
12 outstanding athlete, which earned him an athletic scholarship to Grambling College, where
13 he starred on the football team and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in
14 education; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Burton was drafted by the Houston Oilers of the National Football
16 League as a right offensive tackle; he was later traded to the Boston Patriots, and he ended
17 his professional football career playing in the Canadian Football League; and

18 WHEREAS, after retiring from professional football, Robert returned to school to
19 further his education; he first earned a master's degree in administrative leadership from
20 Prairie View A&M College and then a master's plus thirty hours from Louisiana Tech
21 University; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Burton had an inspiring career as an educator that spanned more
2 than thirty-six years; he served in numerous roles including teacher, head coach, athletic
3 director, and administrator; he received national recognition for a Louisiana Supreme Court
4 ruling that allowed him to serve as the first black head football coach at a predominantly
5 white school in the Shreveport area; and

6 WHEREAS, Robert married Joyce Austin, and the couple had five children: William
7 "Billy" Burns, Zandra Denise Burton (Stan), Yolondra Alda Burton, Xrevette Laveice
8 Dabney, and Welozette Duffin (Darrin); his children blessed him with three grandchildren:
9 Kayla Michelle Hood, Zachary Burton Dabney, and Austin Lee Duffin; and

10 WHEREAS, Robert was an incredibly civic-minded individual who regularly offered
11 his immense knowledge and experience in service of his community; he was a faithful
12 member of Midway Baptist Church #2 where he served on various church committees; he
13 dedicated a significant amount of time serving as a member of the advisory board of the
14 Foster Grandparents Program and the Caddo Parish Federal Teachers' Credit Union Board;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, even in retirement, Mr. Burton continued to serve the community by
17 volunteering at the Caddo Juvenile Detention Center and serving as an intake coordinator
18 in alternative school for at-risk youth; he played a pivotal role in creating a mentoring
19 program for problem-prone middle school boys in Shreveport; and

20 WHEREAS, Robert Lee Burton was a pillar of the Shreveport community, and the
21 legacy of his service shall live on in perpetuity in the hearts and minds of the many lives he
22 impacted.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
24 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Robert
25 Lee Burton and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that his family, friends, and loved ones
26 find comfort in their shared memories of his beautiful life.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 217 Original

2024 Regular Session

Walters

Expresses the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of Robert Lee Burton.