

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 91

BY SENATOR JENKINS

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of Shreveport journalist, Harry Winters Thomas.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens of Louisiana learned of the passing of Harry W. Thomas on April 2, 2024, at the age of seventy; and

WHEREAS, Harry Thomas was often described as an iconic personality in local journalism who contributed indelibly through his forty-year career by uncovering information, documenting and interpreting significant events and situations, and advocating for the underrepresented voices; and

WHEREAS, his talent and dedication saw him break barriers to become one of the first Black journalists to be employed in mainstream local media outlets in Northwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, his first-hand knowledge of the challenges facing the Black community helped him to ask the hard questions that others were not willing to and carved out a reputation for him as someone who could get to the heart of a story; and

WHEREAS, his factual, trustworthy reporting and ability to express complicated issues in direct terms helped to inform and educate many in the Black community to issues they may not have otherwise been aware of and also helped to establish the Shreveport Sun as a vital source for news; and

WHEREAS, Harry Thomas' greatest love and commitment was to his God, evidenced by him serving as a Deacon at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Shreveport, and to his family and a bountiful harvest of friends who said "He knew Jesus & Jesus knew him!"; and

WHEREAS, Harry is survived by his wife of forty-two years, Betty and their son, Omar who stated "You were a wonderful husband to my mother and you were an amazing father to me!".

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the passing of Harry Winters Thomas, and extend enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor he brought to the importance of providing accurate and informative news to the citizens of Northwest Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Harry Winters Thomas.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE