

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 13

BY REPRESENTATIVE MENA

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences on the death of Aurelio Martínez

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Aurelio  
3 Martínez.

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 tragic and untimely  
6 passing, on March 17, 2025, of Aurelio Martínez; and

7 WHEREAS, Born in Honduras in 1969, Aurelio Martínez grew up in a small  
8 Carribean village named Plapaya; he found inspiration in his father, who was a well-known  
9 local troubadour who improvised Paranda songs containing Garifuna roots rhythms and  
10 Latin sounds, and he learned to sing from his vocally-gifted mother; he was a brilliant  
11 drummer, following the influence of his uncles and grandfather; by the age of fourteen,  
12 Aurelio was a respected musician with a strong foundation in Garifuna rhythms, rituals, and  
13 songs; and

14 WHEREAS, the Garifuna are people of Amerindian and West African descent who  
15 originally lived on the island of St. Vincent in the Carribean; after being deported by the  
16 British government in 1796, the Garifuna landed on the island of Roatán in the Bay Islands  
17 of Honduras; the Garifuna now live in communities along the coasts of Belize, Guatemala,  
18 Honduras, and Nicaragua; and

19 WHEREAS, Aurelio was an incredibly talented singer and songwriter who was  
20 known for his Garifuna music and considered a cultural ambassador of the Garifuna people;  
21 he was a genuine guardian of Garifuna heritage whose music bridged generations and served

1 as a symbol of cultural resilience; he was a master of the guitar and his unmistakable voice  
2 brought Garifuna music to the world's most prestigious stages; he was the first Honduran  
3 musician to perform for the NPR Music Tiny Desk series; and

4 WHEREAS, Aurelio was an incredibly civic-minded individual whose impact  
5 extended beyond music; in 2005, he became the first Afro-Honduran elected to serve in the  
6 National Congress of Honduras, and he advocated for the rights and visibility of the  
7 Garifuna people; he earned a place in the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative, where  
8 he worked alongside Youssou N'Dour; in 2022, he was recognized as a Mellon Fellow at  
9 New York University; and

10 WHEREAS, Aurelio was a passionate advocate of the Garifuna people and culture,  
11 and he toured the world sharing Garifuna music with audiences who were captivated by his  
12 passionate authenticity; although his tragic departure will leave a void, he preserved his soul  
13 in his music, and the legacy of his love for the Garifuna people shall live on in perpetuity in  
14 the melodies of his songs.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
16 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Aurelio  
17 Martínez and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that his family, friends, and loved ones  
18 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 13 Original

2025 Regular Session

Mena

Expresses the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of Aurelio Martínez.