

BY REPRESENTATIVE EMERSON

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Luther A. Burney on the occasion of his retirement

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Luther A. Burney on the occasion of his retirement.

3           WHEREAS, Luther A. Burney was born on October 9, 1938, in Alto, Louisiana, to  
4   Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Burney, and he attended school in Monroe, Louisiana; in high school, he  
5   served as president of the senior class and the school choir and was a member of the mixed  
6   vocal ensemble; he graduated from high school in 1956; and

7 WHEREAS, Luther attended Northeast Louisiana State College in Monroe, where  
8 he studied music education with a concentration in voice and graduated in 1961; he was the  
9 school's only student used as a soloist in the 1961 presentation of Handel's "Messiah"; after  
10 graduating, he attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Burney has dedicated his musical talents in service to his faith,  
12 working as a minister of music in numerous Baptist churches throughout Louisiana and  
13 Texas; he began his career in music ministry at Ridge Avenue Baptist Church of West  
14 Monroe, Louisiana, and served from 1956 to 1961; he worked as the minister of music and  
15 education at Caddo Heights Baptist Church in Shreveport, Louisiana; and

16 WHEREAS, while attending seminary in Ft. Worth, Mr. Burney served as the  
17 minister of music and youth at First Baptist Church in Jacksboro, Texas; he served as the  
18 minister of music and youth at Beckley Hills Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, until 1967;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Luther returned to Louisiana in 1967 and joined First Baptist Church  
21 of Lafayette, where he began a thirty-eight year tenure as the minister of music and

1 administration; during his tenure, the music ministry was composed of sixteen music groups  
2 with a total enrollment of more than six hundred individuals from preschoolers to senior  
3 adults; for over twenty years, he spearheaded large annual productions at the Cajundome and  
4 the Heymann Performing Arts Center, including "The Living Christmas Tree" and  
5 "Symphony of Song", which featured nationally recognized artists; his youth choirs  
6 performed across the United States and in Mexico, Canada, England, and Germany, and the  
7 adult choir toured in China; and

8 WHEREAS, in 2005, Mr. Burney took on the role of assistant to the pastor and  
9 minister to senior adults and served in this capacity until his retirement this year; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Burney is a charter member of the Centurymen, a group of  
11 ministers of music selected by the Radio and Television Commission to record and represent  
12 Southern Baptists; the group toured China in the fall of 1983; he was elected to the executive  
13 board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention in 1988, and he was awarded the Distinguished  
14 Service Award by the School of Church Music at Southwestern Baptist Theological  
15 Seminary; and

16 WHEREAS, Luther is married to Marilynn McCormick; they have three sons, Perry,  
17 Mike, and Chris, and six grandchildren, Lindsey, Erin, Korie, Brandi, Brandon, and  
18 Nicholas; and

19 WHEREAS, Luther A. Burney is a truly inspiring individual who is most deserving  
20 of the highest recognition for dedicating sixty-nine years to music ministry.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
22 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Luther A. Burney on the occasion of his  
23 retirement and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that he continue to prosper in all of his  
24 endeavors and enjoy good health as he begins a new journey in retirement.

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#### 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)]

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2025 Regular Session

Emerson

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