

2025 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 32

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the passing of Judge Jules D. Edwards III.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of
3 Louisiana upon the passing of Judge Jules D. Edwards III.

4 WHEREAS, Lafayette City Court Judge Jules D. Edwards III passed away Tuesday,
5 October 15, 2024, at the age of 66, leaving behind a legacy of service, dedication, and
6 justice; and

7 WHEREAS, a native of New Orleans, Judge Edwards dedicated more than three
8 decades of his life to serving the people of Lafayette, first as a judge of the 15th Judicial
9 District Court from 1993 to 2020, and most recently as a judge of the Lafayette City Court,
10 from January 1, 2023, until his passing; and

11 WHEREAS, Judge Edwards served as Chief Judge of the 15th Judicial District Court
12 from 2001 to 2003, during which time he was a pioneer in establishing drug courts and
13 re-entry courts, placing emphasis on rehabilitation and providing second chances for those
14 within the justice system; and

15 WHEREAS, prior to judicial service, Judge Edwards was a well-known, successful
16 attorney who made significant contributions serving in various roles, including as a partner
17 at Edwards and Edwards Law Offices, an indigent defender attorney, an assistant district
18 attorney, and counsel to the Louisiana Senate's Select Committee on Crime and Drugs; and

1 WHEREAS, Judge Edwards was inducted into the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame
2 in 2013 in recognition of his long-standing service and commitment to justice, and he was
3 the first African-American judge elected to the Lafayette City Court, where he broke barriers
4 and served as an inspiration to many; and

5 WHEREAS, in addition to his judicial career, Judge Edwards was a leader within the
6 legal community, serving as president of the Louisiana District Judges Association from
7 2014 to 2015, and as chairman of the Louisiana Judiciary Commission from 2015 to 2016,
8 where he implemented major reforms to judicial oversight and procedure; and

9 WHEREAS, Judge Edwards also contributed to public policy through his work with
10 the Louisiana Sentencing Commission from 2011 to 2018, where he helped to guide uniform
11 sentencing policies across the state, and he proudly served on various councils, including the
12 Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education, the Louisiana Drug
13 Policy Board, and since 2021, he was a member of the DWI-Task Force; and

14 WHEREAS, Judge Edwards was dedicated to educating his peers, and served as
15 Louisiana's Judicial Outreach Liaison, where he taught judges how to handle impaired
16 driving cases and sought to ensure that best practices and fairness were promoted across the
17 judiciary; and

18 WHEREAS, Judge Edwards' dedication to service was not limited to the courtroom;
19 in 1977, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and later served in the
20 Louisiana National Guard from 1981 until 2007, where he served in the infantry, artillery,
21 and Judge Advocate General's Corps; and

22 WHEREAS, he proudly served as the 256th Infantry Brigade's Inspector General and
23 the State Judge Advocate; and

24 WHEREAS, his distinguished military career ended on March 15, 2007, when he
25 retired from the Louisiana National Guard and was honored and recognized as the best Staff
26 Judge Advocate in the United States at that time; and

27 WHEREAS, Judge Edwards earned his undergraduate and law degrees from Loyola
28 University in New Orleans, a Master of Public Administration from Louisiana State
29 University, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College,
30 exemplifying a lifelong commitment to learning and service; and

