

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 84

BY REPRESENTATIVES YOUNG, BAGLEY, EMERSON, AND MCMAHEN

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Alton E. "Red" Franklin.

WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing, on March 9, 2025, of Alton E. "Red" Franklin; and

WHEREAS, Alton E. "Red" Franklin was born on May 1, 1935, in Centreville, Alabama, to William Henry and Velma Franklin; he graduated from Bibb County High School in Centreville and played football for the University of Alabama for one season; and

WHEREAS, Red transferred to Louisiana College and continued playing football; he met his future wife of sixty-three years, Beth Langford, at Louisiana College; after graduating in 1961, he spent two years teaching and coaching at Marksville High School; in 1963, he moved to Springhill High School, where he taught and served as an assistant coach; and

WHEREAS, Coach Franklin began teaching and coaching under M.D. Ray at Haynesville High School in 1966; he became Haynesville's head football coach in 1967; when Claiborne Parish Schools integrated in 1970, Coach Franklin led a newly-united Haynesville team to a state championship; his locker room was a place of unity during a time of uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, Coach Franklin remained in the head coaching role until his retirement in 2002, and he returned after one year of retirement to serve as an assistant coach under his son, David; he spent over fifty years total coaching high school football; and

WHEREAS, in thirty-five seasons as a head coach, Coach Franklin recorded three hundred sixty-five wins, eleven state championships, four state runner-up finishes, twenty-

seven district titles, eight undefeated seasons, and thirty-one playoff appearances; he was a twenty-three-time district coach of the year, six-time state coach of the year, and two-time Region Five Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Coach Franklin was elected as a member of the LHSCA/LHSAA Hall of Fame, Louisiana College Hall of Fame, North Louisiana Chapter of the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame, Louisiana Sports Writers Hall of Fame, and the National Federation of State High School Associations Hall of Fame; he was the president of the Louisiana High School coaches Association for two years, served as a board member of the LHSCA Executive Committee, served on the committee that established the Louisiana High School Hall of Fame, and served on the board for the Louisiana Football Coaches Association; he was a member of the Haynesville Lion's Club and served as its president for several years; and

WHEREAS, Coach Franklin was a devoted member of First Baptist Church in Haynesville; he served as a deacon, sang in the church choir, and helped with the Awana's and the Upward Basketball programs; one of the highlights of his career was traveling to Belarus to serve as a counselor on a mission trip basketball camp for children; and

WHEREAS, Alton E. "Red" Franklin leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Beth; children, Jeff (Sheila), David (Jennifer), and Tommy (Jeni); grandchildren, Macy Garner (Jamey), Trent Franklin, Erin Franklin, Caroline Franklin, Hayden Franklin, Toby Franklin, and Blake Franklin; and great-grandchild, Eleanor Garner; he will be deeply missed, but the legacy of his loving spirit shall live on in perpetuity in the hearts and minds of those who knew and loved him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Alton E. "Red" Franklin and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that his family, friends, and loved ones find comfort in their shared memories of his beautiful life.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES