

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 172

BY REPRESENTATIVE BURRELL AND SENATOR GALLOT

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences upon the death of Caddo Parish Commissioner Joyce Bowman

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express heartfelt measures of condolences upon the death of Caddo Parish Commissioner

3 Joyce Bowman.

4 WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and great sadness that the Legislature of Louisiana

5 has learned of the death of Caddo Parish Commissioner Joyce Bowman, on Sunday, May 26,

6 2013, in Shreveport, Louisiana, and it is fitting to recognize and record for posterity the

7 unique and wonderful legacy of public service and civic engagement that Commissioner

8 Bowman leaves behind; and

9 WHEREAS, few individuals have had such a profound impact on their community

10 and it is appropriate to extend to her family and constituents the sincerest and most profound

11 condolences upon the loss of this extraordinary and courageous woman; and

12 WHEREAS, Joyce Marie McLemore was born on January 12, 1953, to the union of

13 the late Huey Bryant and Willie McLemore in Houston, Texas; and

14 WHEREAS, Joyce was lovingly raised by her maternal grandmother, Frankie L.

15 Chism, and her paternal grandmother, Gertrude Bryant, in the Hollywood and Hollywood

16 Heights communities in Shreveport, Louisiana; and

17 WHEREAS, Joyce accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior at an early age and stood

18 strongly and steadfastly in her faith for the remainder of her life, particularly after her

19 diagnosis of cancer; and

20 WHEREAS, a noted track star and champion swimmer, she graduated in 1970 from

21 Bethune High School; and

1 WHEREAS, Mrs. Bowman worked as a licensed practical nurse at Doctor's Hospital
2 and later as a nursing administrator at Highland Hospital for twenty-three years; and

3 WHEREAS, with much thought and prayer, Mrs. Bowman offered herself as a
4 dedicated and deliberate public servant to the Caddo Parish community in 1999 when she
5 ran for the District 5 seat on the Caddo Parish Commission; and

6 WHEREAS, Mrs. Bowman was elected and reelected and served on the Caddo
7 Parish Commission until 2006, when she stepped down to run for a seat on the Shreveport
8 City Council in District G; and

9 WHEREAS, Mrs. Bowman proudly and effectively served on the Shreveport City
10 Council until 2010, when she again stepped down and later returned to the Caddo Parish
11 Commission, representing District 5 from 2011 until her death; and

12 WHEREAS, Mrs. Bowman's ambitions were to represent the citizens of House
13 District 2 in the Louisiana House of Representatives, currently held by her friend State
14 Representative Roy Burrell, and if her health would have allowed it, she would have run for
15 the seat in 2015; and

16 WHEREAS, Mrs. Bowman is preceded in death by her father, Huey Bryant, and one
17 sister, Frankie McLemore Hunter; and

18 WHEREAS, Mrs. Bowman leaves to cherish her precious memory her mother, Willie
19 McLemore; her husband of thirty-eight years, Jerry Dan Bowman, Sr.; two sons, Jerry Dan
20 Bowman, Jr., and wife Ursula and Jerald DeShun Bowman; two grandchildren, Rodrick
21 Stevenson and Jeryn Bowman; special friends Kenneth Davidson and Faye Norfleet; two
22 aunts, Blanche Harrison and Lois Hughes; and a host of admiring family, friends, and loved
23 ones; and

24 WHEREAS, Mrs. Bowman wished to be remembered as "a woman who loved God
25 first, then as a mother who loved her children more than they would ever know, and then as
26 a public servant who really was in it for the citizens, who spoke out in spite of threats or
27 other tactics"; and

28 WHEREAS, Mrs. Bowman was a trailblazer, a fighter, and a champion for her
29 community, and she made history as the first black woman to serve as president of both the
30 Caddo Parish Commission and the Shreveport City Council; and

1 WHEREAS, Commissioner Bowman was widely respected and admired for her
2 fierce advocacy on behalf of her constituents, unwavering dedication to effective and
3 efficient government, and competent and compassionate leadership, and she was recognized
4 countless times by many civic and local organizations; and

5 WHEREAS, Commissioner Bowman was a woman whose generosity, smile, and
6 loving heart have left an indelible mark on the many people whose lives she touched; and

7 WHEREAS, throughout her battle with cancer, Commissioner Bowman lived every
8 day by the words of 2 Timothy 4:7, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course,
9 I have kept the faith"; and

10 WHEREAS, the death of Commissioner Bowman has left a tremendous void in her
11 community and has created a genuine sense of sorrow in all who knew her, and she leaves
12 behind a rich legacy of tenacity, courage, determination, and integrity and will forever be
13 remembered for the contributions she made to Caddo Parish.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
15 express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Caddo Parish Commissioner
16 Joyce Bowman, does hereby recognize her achievements and singular contributions to the
17 city of Shreveport and Caddo Parish, does hereby record for posterity her remarkable gifts
18 and profound talent, her outstanding abilities, and her generosity and kindness, does hereby
19 extend enduring appreciation for the pride and honor that this extraordinary woman will
20 forever bring to her family and friends, her community, and the state of Louisiana, and does
21 hereby express the deep regret of the entire state upon the loss of this phenomenal woman.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
23 to the family of Joyce Bowman.

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)]

Burrell

HCR No. 172

Expresses the condolences of the legislature upon the death of Caddo Parish Commissioner Joyce Bowman.