

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 187

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Monroe native and Baton Rouge resident, Michael Ellerbe.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Louisiana House of Representatives have learned that Michael Ellerbe stepped into Heaven and the arms of His Mighty King and Savior Jesus on Friday, May 24, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Michael worked as the director of re-entry and prerelease at Dixon Correctional Institute in Jackson, Louisiana, where he educated, supported, guided, and mentored incarcerated men in preparation for their release back into society; and

WHEREAS, as a songwriter, singer, and preacher, Michael used his talents to lift others, encouraging them to utilize every gift with which God had blessed them; and

WHEREAS, on July 12, 2013, Michael and his wife Elain will be inducted into the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame in recognition of their contributions to the criminal justice system of Louisiana and for their advocacy on behalf of incarcerated inmates and the families impacted by the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, Michael leaves to cherish his memory his wife of thirty-eight years, Elain Helmke Ellerbe; one daughter, Arianne Ellerbe Mathe and husband Chet Mathe, III, as well as Biscuit, Catfish, Blueberry, and Highway; one granddaughter, Abigail Rose Mathe; his mother, Juanita Ellerbe; mother-in-law, Ann Helmke; three sisters, Nita Rae Ellerbe Womack and husband Jimmy, Peggy Ellerbe Smith and husband Ricky, and Jennifer Ellerbe; one brother, Brad Ellerbe and wife Marsha; one nephew Chris McGough and wife Claire; three nieces, Mandy Womack, Jana McGough Blaylock and husband Brandon; Megan Womack Hodge and husband Casey; great nieces and nephews, Anastasia, Mason, Cannon, and Landry; and a host of friends, family, and other loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Michael Ellerbe is now in that great cloud of witnesses and is reunited with his father, Julian Ray Ellerbe, and his father-in-law, Bubba Helmke, along with other loved ones who preceded him to eternity; and

WHEREAS, Michael leaves behind a rich and unique legacy as a Man of God who was called and ordained into ministry, spending his life to help individuals thrown away by society find hope, redemption, and restoration, and his tenacity, determination, integrity, and professionalism will forever be remembered for the positive contributions he made to the criminal justice system of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana do hereby express their sincere sorrow and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Michael Ellerbe, do hereby recognize his many years of service to Dixon Correctional Institute and the criminal justice system of Louisiana, do hereby extend appreciation for his enduring legacy that will continue to be a source of great pride, inspiration, and honor for his family and friends, his community, and the state of Louisiana, and do hereby express the deep regret of the entire state upon the loss of this magnificent man.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Elain Ellerbe.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES