

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 226

BY REPRESENTATIVES GAINES, ABRAMSON, ARNOLD, WESLEY BISHOP,
BROSSETT, AND LEGER

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences upon the death of Dr. Elliot Cornelius Willard,
Sr., of New Orleans

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of the Honorable
3 Dr. Elliot Cornelius Willard, Sr., of New Orleans.

4 WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sadness that the Louisiana House of
5 Representatives has learned of the death of Elliot Cornelius Willard of New Orleans on
6 December 24, 2012, after a courageous battle against cancer; and

7 WHEREAS, born in New Orleans, Elliot Cornelius Willard was the second child of
8 Maude Washington and Julius Walter Willard, Sr., the grandson of Rev. J. Walter Willard
9 and Adelpia Willard, and Mr. and Mrs. Bartley Washington; and

10 WHEREAS, Elliot grew up in a strong Catholic family that attended mass regularly
11 and he was an altar server so frequently that he earned the nickname "Altar Boy"; and

12 WHEREAS, Elliot received his primary education at Holy Ghost Elementary and
13 secondary education at Xavier Preparatory High School, where he excelled in both football
14 and track, breaking the city-wide record in the 100-yard dash and holding other top track
15 records in Louisiana; and

16 WHEREAS, his athletic ability, Catholic upbringing, and academic excellence
17 helped him receive a full scholarship to Xavier University in New Orleans, from which he
18 received his bachelor's degree in physical education and his master's in guidance counseling;
19 Elliot later began his doctoral degree at Grambling State University and studied at Tulane
20 University; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Willard was a faculty member at Dillard University and Loyola
2 University and received an Honorary Doctorate in education from the University of Illinois;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, in 1952, Elliot married the love of his life, Mary Jane Jordan, and their
5 union was blessed with twelve children, six boys and six girls, including former state
6 senator, the Honorable Cynthia Willard-Lewis and the Honorable Judge Benedict Willard;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Willard had a long and successful career as an educator and public
9 administrator, including stints as assistant superintendent with the Louisiana Department of
10 Education under Governor Edwin Edwards; as a teacher at Xavier Prep, where he also
11 coached football, baseball, and track, St. Augustine High School, Joseph S. Clark, and
12 Booker T. Washington High School; as an executive administrator in the office of New
13 Orleans District Attorneys Harry C. Connick, Sr., and Eddie Jordan; and as a two-term
14 member of the Orleans Parish School Board; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Willard was the first lay principal of St. Augustine High School
16 where he pursued a mission of imparting knowledge, developing minds, and molding the
17 character of the thousands of young men who were his students; and

18 WHEREAS, in 1977, Mr. Willard was named principal at Booker T. Washington,
19 and during his tenure he purchased band uniforms, implemented one of the first career days
20 in the Orleans Parish School System, and helped the Lions win several district
21 championships in football; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Willard was a member of many professional and social
23 organizations, including Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Knights of Peter Claver, Southern
24 Christian Leadership Conference, the Executive Board of the National Association for the
25 Advancement of Colored People, the Urban League, City Park Board of Directors, the
26 Martin Luther King, Jr., parade committee, and the Allstate Sugar Bowl committee; and

27 WHEREAS, with the death of Elliot Cornelius Willard, Louisiana has lost one of her
28 finest sons, and he leaves behind a rich and unique legacy of tenacity, determination,
29 integrity, professionalism, and strength; and

1 WHEREAS, the death of Mr. Willard has left an abiding void in the many lives he
2 touched throughout his life, and his memory shall remain eternal in the hearts and minds of
3 all those who knew and loved him.

4 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
5 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its sincere sorrow and heartfelt condolences
6 upon the death of the Honorable Elliot Cornelius Willard of New Orleans, does hereby
7 recognize his extraordinary faith and many years of service to his family, the Orleans Parish
8 Public School System, the entire New Orleans community, and the state of Louisiana, does
9 hereby record for posterity his tremendous gifts and love for his students, his outstanding
10 abilities as an instructor and administrator and his generosity and kindness, does hereby
11 extend appreciation for his enduring legacy that will continue to be a source of great pride,
12 inspiration, and honor for his family and friends, his community, and the state of Louisiana,
13 and does hereby express the deep regret of the entire state upon the loss of this magnificent
14 man.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
16 to the family of Dr. Elliot Cornelius Willard, Sr.

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)]

Gaines

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