HLS 14RS-1941 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31

BY REPRESENTATIVE KATRINA JACKSON

MEMORIALS: Recognizes the life of Nelson Mandela and expresses support for the Nelson Mandela Scholars Program at Southern University and A&M College

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To recognize the life of Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa, civil rights
3	leader, teacher, freedom fighter, father of his nation, and inspiration to the global
4	community, by expressing support for the Nelson Mandela Scholars Program at
5	Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College in Baton Rouge,
6	Louisiana.
7	WHEREAS, it is with profound intent the Legislature of Louisiana is moved to pay
8	homage to a man of indomitable faith and dedication whose purposeful life and
9	accomplishments will continue to stand as a paradigm and inspiration for others; and
10	WHEREAS, Nelson Mandela was a man of great character and the Legislature of
11	Louisiana acclaims those individuals whose lives exemplify the highest ideals of humanity;
12	and
13	WHEREAS, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was born on July 18, 1918, in Mvezo, South
14	Africa, and passed away on December 5, 2013, at ninety-five years of age; and
15	WHEREAS, Nelson Mandela delivered his famous "I am prepared to die" statement
16	from the dock at the opening of the Rivonia Trial, in which he declared, "I have cherished
17	the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and
18	with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if it needs
19	be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die"; and
20	WHEREAS, Nelson Mandela was charged with conspiring against the government
21	and spent twenty-seven years of his life in prison; he was sentenced to life in prison in 1964
22	and he, along with seven other African National Congress (ANC) members, was sent to
23	Robben Island Prison in South Africa; and

1	WHEREAS, in February of 1990, President Frederik de Klerk of South Africa
2	announced Nelson Mandela's release from prison; and
3	WHEREAS, soon after Nelson Mandela was freed from prison, he set out as a
4	magnanimous leader to create the world he envisioned; he began negotiations with the South
5	African government, which lead to the gradual dismantling of apartheid from 1990 to 1993
6	and earned him and President Frederik de Klerk a joint Nobel Peace Prize in 1993; and
7	WHEREAS, Nelson Mandela was admired by his country and the world at large; he
8	won South Africa's first multiracial elections on April 27, 1994, and became South Africa's
9	first black president; he vowed to build a "rainbow nation at peace with itself and with the
10	world"; and
11	WHEREAS, Nelson Mandela established the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
12	with the purpose of resolving the gaping wounds left by apartheid and working toward
13	national unity; and
14	WHEREAS, at the end of his term as President of South Africa in 1999, Nelson
15	Mandela withdrew from political life, but continued to remain active in various causes, such
16	as the fight against AIDS, which was the disease that claimed the life of his son, Makgatho,
17	in 2005; and
18	WHEREAS, in 2000, the Honorable Nelson Mandela was the commencement
19	speaker for the spring commencement at Southern University and A&M College, and the
20	School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs was named after him in honor of his life
21	accomplishments; and
22	WHEREAS, Nelson Mandela's monumental legacy will continue to shine forth as
23	a beacon of hope for all those who aspire to create a just and peaceful world.
24	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
25	remember Nelson Mandela's purposeful life and countless achievements and does hereby
26	celebrate the life of Nelson Mandela by supporting the establishment of the Nelson Mandela
27	Scholars Program at Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
28	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
29	to the Nelson Mandela Scholars Program at Southern University and A&M College.

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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)]

Katrina Jackson HCR No. 31

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