

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.

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

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