

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 139

BY REPRESENTATIVE BROADWATER

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences upon the death of Dr. J. Larry Crain, former president of Southeastern Louisiana University, former state commissioner of higher education, and former secretary of the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the House of Representatives of the
3 Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Dr. James Larry Crain, former president
4 of Southeastern Louisiana University, former state commissioner of higher
5 education, and former secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and
6 Tourism.

7 WHEREAS, it is with great sadness that the citizens of Louisiana have learned of the
8 death of Dr. J. Larry Crain on February 2, 2014, at the age seventy-nine; and

9 WHEREAS, a native of Washington Parish, he taught science and coached basketball
10 at Varnado High School before leaving to go to Southeastern Louisiana University (SLU)
11 as a professor of Biology; and

12 WHEREAS, Larry Crain met Edwin Edwards in 1970 when he was an assistant
13 professor of biology at SLU; he heard Edwin Edwards speak and was so impressed with him
14 that he introduced him throughout Washington Parish; Edwin Edwards went on to win the
15 gubernatorial election in 1976 and asked Larry Crain to serve as deputy secretary, and later
16 secretary, of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Larry Crain went on to serve as SLU's president from 1980 to 1986
18 before becoming system president for the Board of Trustees for State Colleges and
19 Universities, which is now known as the Board of Supervisors for the University of
20 Louisiana System; and

1 WHEREAS, the current president of SLU, Dr. John L. Crain, described Dr. J. Larry
2 Crain as the one who "led the university at a pivotal time in its history during the 1980s and
3 played a key role in transforming the institution from a small, sleepy college into one of the
4 state's major regional universities; he will be remembered for his efforts to enhance the
5 academic stature of the university during the 'oil bust' years that impacted the state's
6 economy and severely affected the funding of higher education as well as other state
7 services; he will be remembered as a man of integrity who was committed to higher
8 education and historic preservation"; and

9 WHEREAS, in December 1993, following a contentious deadlock between
10 supporters of Governor Edwin Edwards and appointees of former Governor Buddy Roemer,
11 the Board of Regents named Dr. James Larry Crain as the state's higher education
12 commissioner; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Larry Crain was an avid collector with an interest in history,
14 particularly the Civil War and southern architecture, culture and genealogy; he was a
15 member of the Civil War Roundtable, serving as the group's president; and he had "perhaps
16 the finest collection in the world" of U.S. Martial single-shot pistols; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Crain spent years restoring a dogtrot-style house on his
18 grandfather's homestead in State Line, including a functioning syrup mill, blacksmith shop,
19 and barn; and

20 WHEREAS, he was a loving husband and a cherished father, grandfather, great-
21 grandfather, and friend whose love of family was of the utmost importance to him in his life;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities,
24 and the overall vitality of American society depends, in great measure, upon people like Dr.
25 J. Larry Crain who dedicate themselves and their lives to education and to making Louisiana
26 a better place for future generations.

27 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
28 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the
29 death of Dr. J. Larry Crain, former president of Southeastern Louisiana University, former
30 state commissioner of higher education, and former secretary of the Department of Culture,

1 Recreation and Tourism, and does hereby record for posterity enduring appreciation for his
2 lifetime of outstanding contributions and achievements.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
4 family of Dr. J. Larry Crain.

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)]

Broadwater

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