

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 101

BY SENATOR MILKOVICH

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Reverend Frances Duron for her lifetime of dedicated and selfless gospel ministry and for her unflinching faith in the task she was assigned by her Lord to preach the message of God to all who were searching for His love and understanding.

WHEREAS, Frances Elledge was born in Bonham, Texas, to Christian evangelist parents who were pioneering a new Assembly of God church by holding a brush arbor revival in Bonham, a rural Christian tradition of outdoor revivals carried forward from as early as the nineteenth century; and

WHEREAS, later Frances moved to Freeport, Texas, where she met and married evangelist Rodney Duron in 1950, and in 1952 they were blessed with a son, Denny; and

WHEREAS, following seven years of evangelizing together, Frances and Rodney Duron settled in Shreveport, Louisiana, and in 1957 they began pastoring a church, known at the time as the First Assembly of God church, which was located in the Cedar Grove area of Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, Mrs. Duron received a bachelor's degree from Centenary College and began teaching in public schools for the next ten years; and

WHEREAS, the campus in Cedar Grove was no longer sufficient to serve the growing population of worshipers, so in 1976, Frances and Rodney Duron moved their church and congregation to a considerably larger campus that would accommodate the current congregation and allow substantial room for growth; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Frances Duron accepted a writing position for the Hunt Oil Company of Dallas, Texas, which allowed her to work from home and become more involved with her husband, Rodney, in the daily work of the church, including making their dream of establishing a Christian school become a reality; and

WHEREAS, also in 1980, Frances and Rodney founded Evangel Christian Academy on the principles of Godliness, honor, and integrity, first as a small kindergarten to eighth grade school, and, in 1989, the high school was added and the school has grown into a respected academic institution with an outstanding athletic program that continues to win countless state championships, becoming a juggernaut of football excellence; and

WHEREAS, Evangel Christian Academy has earned state and national recognition for excellence in both academics and athletics, always adhering to the dictates of living a life in tune with the teachings of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, Frances Duron has spent sixty-three years in selfless, courageous, and visionary gospel ministry in tent meetings, in brush arbor revivals, at First Assembly of God Cedar Grove, at First Assembly of God Shreveport, and at Shreveport Community Church in devotion to spreading the word of God and by living a life reflecting the principles of Godliness, honor, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, from a humble start as a young couple attempting to bring the word of God to all who thirsted for it, Frances, along with her husband, grew their ministry to include two worship centers at the location in Shreveport, a kindergarten through twelfth grade Christian school that serves as an example of the love of God, particularly for children, the Evangel Center for Autism, and the SCC Café and kids play area; and

WHEREAS, she has been an enduring comfort to the despairing, the lonely, and the brokenhearted, and has exemplified the highest levels of compassion, loyalty, and devotion to her husband, the late Reverend Rodney Duron; and

WHEREAS, the number of lives that Frances Duron has touched in her sixty-three years of devotion in unceasingly laboring to provide spiritual training to young people by spreading the word of God, including reaching beyond the church campus, sacrificing to bring the highest level of spiritual and academic education to underserved inner city children and families, is clearly incalculable, but they stand as a testament to her vision of evangelism and her abiding faith in the God who called her to live this life of service.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Reverend Frances Duron for her lifetime of dedicated and selfless commitment to a ministry of preaching the Gospel and living a life of service to God.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Reverend Frances Duron.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE