

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 152

BY SENATOR TARVER

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences on the death of Mamie Wallace, revered Shreveport civil rights activist.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences upon the passing of a mainstay for social justice, Mamie  
3 Love Wallace.

4 WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the passing of Mamie  
5 Love Wallace, on Sunday, April 22, 2018, at age ninety-six, has been learned by the citizens  
6 of Louisiana and the members of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana; and

7 WHEREAS, Mamie Love Wallace was born one of twelve children to Robert and  
8 Lula Stewart in the Calvary community on Seven Pines Road near Benton, Louisiana;  
9 Robert was a minister and Lula a schoolteacher and civil rights activist; and

10 WHEREAS, as soon as Mamie graduated from Bossier Parish Training School in  
11 Benton she moved to Shreveport, worked as a cosmetologist, and joined the National  
12 Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Southern Christian Leadership  
13 Conference, and other organizations "designed to fight for the rights of all"; and

14 WHEREAS, Mamie was married to Clemmie Love for more than thirty years and,  
15 after his death, married Jack Wallace who died eight years later; and

16 WHEREAS, she reared two nieces, Anne Stewart and Johnnie Belle Stewart, as well  
17 as a godchild, Gwendolyn Barnes; and

18 WHEREAS, with a career as a cosmetologist Ms. Wallace and her friend Ann

1 Brewster opened and co-owned Modern Beauty Shop with Ms. Bernice Smith, and were  
2 instrumental in changing the course of Black/African American's civil rights in Shreveport;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Ms. Wallace was very upset about the fact that African Americans  
5 could not dine at most restaurants, drink at certain water fountains, or try on clothing in  
6 stores; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1958, she met Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Dr. Ralph Albernathy  
8 in New Orleans, Louisiana, and the North Louisiana Civil Rights birth began as she  
9 pioneered a cause she knew to be just and righteous, the concept that all human beings were  
10 to be afforded equal protection before the law; and

11 WHEREAS, she picketed Stan's Record Shop, sat in the downtown bus station when  
12 the "Freedom Riders" came through with food and drinks for them, and also participated in  
13 a march down Milam Street to protest the 1963 church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Ms. Wallace played a major role in bringing the late Dr. Martin Luther  
16 King Jr. to Shreveport in 1962, where he galvanized crowds and motivated the masses at  
17 Galilee Baptist Church to take a stand against racial injustice and unfair practices in the city;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, she was affectionately known as the "Mother of the Civil Rights  
20 Movement" in North Louisiana; her life dedication and motivation were seamlessly  
21 demonstrated in her commitment to freedom and justice for all; she appeared on the C-SPAN  
22 Network in 1997 and proudly attended the inauguration and witnessed the nation's first  
23 African-American president being sworn into office, Barack Obama on January 2009, a  
24 dream come true; and

25 WHEREAS, her visionary leadership united with other civil rights icons from this  
26 community and across this state and nation with the birth of the North Louisiana Civil Rights  
27 Coalition and the museum that honor the history of this part of the country is now a reality;  
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Mamie Wallace was an extraordinary individual of profound moral  
30 character and a graceful, elegant, and passionate woman who wanted to unite people of all

