

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 169

BY SENATOR BISHOP

COMMENDATIONS. Recognizes the lives and legacies of Denver Smith and Leonard Brown and honors them, posthumously, as casualties of the civil rights movement.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To recognize the lives and legacies of Denver Smith and Leonard Brown and to honor them,  
3 posthumously, as casualties of the civil rights movement.

4 WHEREAS, in 1972, civil rights demonstrations were actively taking place in the  
5 city of Baton Rouge and, on the campus of Southern University, simultaneous  
6 demonstrations were ongoing over improved facilities, desired curriculum changes, faculty  
7 hires, financial allocations and efforts by students to have a more prominent role in  
8 administrative matters; and

9 WHEREAS, over forty-five years ago, on November 16, 1972, Denver Smith of New  
10 Roads, Louisiana, and Leonard Brown of Gilbert, Louisiana, were students at Southern  
11 University, both pursuing their junior year of studies; and

12 WHEREAS, after a prolonged season of demonstrations on and off the campus, a  
13 November 16, 1972, emergency call resulted in the deaths of Denver Smith and Leonard  
14 Brown as they stood innocently on campus that day, having no association with each other  
15 or the ongoing protests taking place mere yards away; and

16 WHEREAS, consequently, they were made innocent casualties of the inauspicious  
17 and lamentable circumstances of the era; and

18 WHEREAS, on May 12, 2017, Southern University awarded posthumous

1 undergraduate degrees to these students – Denver Smith in agriculture and Leonard Brown  
2 in computer science; and

3           WHEREAS, the lives of their loved ones have been appreciably and permanently  
4 altered and their community left to wonder what valuable contributions they could have  
5 made.

6           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
7 does hereby recognize the lives and legacies of Denver Smith and Leonard Brown and honor  
8 them, posthumously, as casualties of the civil rights movement.

9           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
10 families of Denver Smith and Leonard Brown.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

SR 169 Original

DIGEST  
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