

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 232

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences on the death of Dr. Raphael A. Baranco Sr.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of
3 Louisiana upon the death of Dr. Raphael A. Baranco Sr.

4 WHEREAS, it is with great sadness that the citizens and the Senate of the Legislature
5 of Louisiana have learned of the death of Dr. Raphael A. Baranco Sr. on May 5, 2018; and

6 WHEREAS, Raphael A. Baranco Sr. was born on November 19, 1932, in Baton
7 Rouge, Louisiana; and

8 WHEREAS, the eldest of eight children born to parents Dr. B.V. Baranco Jr. and
9 Evelyn Edmond, he grew up in a loving family with strong Catholic values, committed to
10 community service, education, and justice; and

11 WHEREAS, he graduated from Southern University Laboratory High School in
12 Baton Rouge and enrolled at Xavier University of Louisiana at age sixteen; and

13 WHEREAS, following his graduation in 1956, he enlisted in the United States Army,
14 serving his state and his country overseas; and

15 WHEREAS, upon his return, he was accepted to, and eventually graduated from,
16 Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry in Nashville, Tennessee, where he met and
17 fell in love with Terry Bryant, a student at Tennessee A&I State College, and the two
18 married in June of 1961; and

1 WHEREAS, he accepted an internship in Jersey City, New Jersey, where their first
2 child Angela was born; they then moved back to Nashville where he taught at Meharry
3 School of Dentistry and welcomed their second child, Rachel; and

4 WHEREAS, they then moved to Tuskegee, Alabama, where he worked at the VA
5 Hospital; but they ultimately returned to Louisiana, settling in Lafayette as their final move,
6 and their third and last child, Raphael Jr., was born; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Raphael A. Baranco Sr. established his private dental practice on
8 Louisiana Avenue, becoming the first black dentist in Lafayette, where he spent many hours
9 building his practice and engaging in community work; and

10 WHEREAS, he was a loving and devoted husband, a committed father, and cherished
11 grandfather, brother, uncle, and cousin whose family was of the utmost importance in his
12 life; he enjoyed fishing, traveling, playing sports, and spending quality time with family; he
13 was always very active in his children's schools, and participated in the schools' governance
14 and parent organizations; he encouraged his children to do their best in every undertaking
15 and expected them to be humble, thoughtful, respectful, and kind to others; and

16 WHEREAS, for his children and so many others, the love and partnership shared
17 between himself and Terry showed a wonderful and positive example of a loving marriage;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Baranco Sr. was an education activist who believed that education
20 is the birthright of every American child; and

21 WHEREAS, this strong belief led him to run for his district's seat on the Lafayette
22 Parish School Board where he was elected and served his community for eighteen years; and

23 WHEREAS, he was the first black elected official in the history of Lafayette Parish,
24 testified before the federal courts against continued segregation of public schools, and was
25 instrumental in establishing the "All Day Kindergarten" and Head Start programs, giving
26 educational access to economically disadvantaged, at-risk and children of color; and

27 WHEREAS, Dr. Baranco Sr. practiced dentistry for over fifty-five years with passion
28 and competence, he did not turn away anyone who needed help, and treated each and every
29 patient with dignity; and

30 WHEREAS, throughout his career he worked as a dental consultant for Title XIX,

1 the United States Public Health Service, and as an advisor and instructor for the Delta
2 Business School Dental Assistant Training Program; and

3 WHEREAS, he maintained his professional membership in the Capitol City Dental
4 Society, Pelican State Dental Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, and the
5 National Dental Association; and

6 WHEREAS, he enjoyed sharing his professional experience through mentoring,
7 always opening his office to guide and train students from dental assistant programs and new
8 dentists who were just starting out after graduation; and

9 WHEREAS, he was an exemplary and highly admired citizen of Louisiana who
10 worked tirelessly on a multitude of business, civic, religious, and political causes throughout
11 his lifetime serving on or holding membership in several civic and service organizations: the
12 Lafayette Human Relations Council, the St. Martin-Iberia-Lafayette (SMILE) Community
13 Action Agency, the Lafayette Community Action Agency, the Holy Family School Board,
14 and the Lafayette Chapter for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored
15 People (NAACP); he was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; a charter member of the
16 Lafayette Chapter of 100 Black Men, Chi Delta Mu Fraternity, the Bonanza Social Club, the
17 Bunch Club, and Alpha Xi Boule of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, and was a parishioner of
18 Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Raphael A. Baranco Sr. received many honors, accolades, and
20 recognitions for his service, leadership, integrity, and accomplishments throughout his
21 lifetime, most recently the 2018 Southwest Louisiana Black Chamber of Commerce's Living
22 Legend Award, and was named the 100 Black Men 2017 Visionary Leader; some of his
23 other honors included the Alpha Phi Alpha Man of the Year, Alpha Phi Alpha Community
24 Service Award, Omega Psi Phi Outstanding Black Citizen Award, Man of the Year, Prince
25 Hall Masons, marshall for the MLK and Black History Month parade, and the Lafayette
26 Council on Human Relations Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Service Award; and

27 WHEREAS, he was an early riser and found solace in the quiet of the mornings with
28 a mug of Community coffee; his morning routine included reading the newspapers, making
29 notes, and highlighting articles for Terry to read and cut out later; born during the
30 Depression, he strongly believed everything had a use, a second, third, and even fourth use;

1 he was very handy and could fix most anything, and he enjoyed tinkering with electronics;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, he enjoyed traveling with friends, he and Terry cruised the seas,
4 attended conventions, played Bid Whist and celebrated just about every holiday and festival;
5 they enjoyed good food; he even took requests from his children and grandchildren so on
6 their visits home their rice dressing and his BBQ would be on the menu; he relished in
7 providing wisdom from his many life experiences, enjoyed a heated conversation or debate,
8 and as everyone who knew him knew, he loved his mug of chocolate ice cream; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Raphael A. Baranco Sr. joyfully committed himself to a life of
10 excellence, integrity, scholarship, and service and was respected and loved; upon his death,
11 the world lost a unique individual who left an indelible mark and huge void for family,
12 friends, clients, community, and all those who had the privilege to have known him; and

13 WHEREAS, the strength of our communities and the overall vitality of American
14 society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of men like Dr. Raphael A. Baranco
15 Sr. who use their considerable talents and resources to leave a legacy and to benefit future
16 generations.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
18 does hereby acknowledge the remarkable life and accomplishments of Dr. Raphael A.
19 Baranco Sr. and extends sincere and heartfelt condolences to his family upon the occasion
20 of his death.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
22 family of Dr. Raphael A. Baranco Sr.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Tammy Crain Waldrop.

DIGEST

SR 232 Original 2018 Regular Session Boudreaux

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