

2018 Third Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 13

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

A RESOLUTION

To commend Pearl Payne upon the occasion of her one hundredth birthday.

WHEREAS, membership in the centenarians club is extremely rare, and much honor is due to those who reach this milestone; on July 12, 2018, Pearl Payne will join this exclusive club; and

WHEREAS, Pearl has lived a life of distinguished service to her community in Natchitoches Parish; her service began in 1935 when, at the tender age of seventeen, she graduated from Natchitoches Parish Training School and launched an esteemed teaching career that spanned thirty-seven years; during the course of her teaching career, she also advanced her own education, ultimately earning a masters plus thirty; and

WHEREAS, Pearl Payne retired from Northwestern State University Laboratory School in 1972 and began a second career in counseling and housing management; always active in the Natchitoches community, she was an early force in the Natchitoches Parish Voters League, as an advocate for voter registration, and a charter member of the Ladies Auxiliary; in 2008 she was among the first group of retirees to be recognized by the city as Natchitoches Treasures; and

WHEREAS, Pearl was married for fifty-nine years to Lutrill Payne, Sr., and the couple was active in desegregation efforts, including legal proceedings to force the admission of African Americans to the Louisiana State University Graduate School; and

WHEREAS, at the heart of her life of service to the community is her faith, which has been nurtured by North Star Baptist Church in Powhatan for over eighty-four years; she was the church clerk for over forty years, started the first youth choir, and is still a regular presence on Sundays and serves as the unofficial church historian; in honor and recognition of decades of distinguished service to the church and to educating children, North Star Baptist Church established the Pearl Payne Scholarship Fund in 1994; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend Pearl Payne on the momentous occasion of her one hundredth birthday and to take this opportunity to thank her for her tireless efforts to make the world a better place.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Pearl Payne upon the occasion of her one hundredth birthday; does hereby add its hearty congratulations to the celebration of a full and rich life and offer its sincerest gratitude for her countless contributions to the community in Natchitoches Parish and beyond; and does hereby wish her full measures of health and many happy days ahead.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Pearl Payne.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES