

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 191

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Reverend Joel Scott Greene Sr., longtime pastor and educator in Southwest Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Joel Scott Greene Sr. was born on April 14, 1933, to Reverend Melvin Greene Sr. and Mrs. Myrtle Mae Greene in Eunice, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Greene was raised on Beulah Street, Eunice, Louisiana, where he attended public school; and

WHEREAS, in 1951, Reverend Greene graduated from and was named valedictorian of North Eunice High School, and that same year he answered the call to ministry and was licensed and ordained; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Greene believed deeply in the importance of family as the basic social unit; he married Alice Lorenia "Rene" Antoine, the love of his life, in 1951 and there were two daughters born to the couple, Cheryl Lynn and Myrtle Marie, and four sons, Joel Jr., Lloyd Edward, Obadiah, and Karl Fitzgerald; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Joel Greene proudly served in the United States Army, and was the first native of Eunice, Louisiana, to be commissioned an officer in the United States Army as a second lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, in 1954, Rev. Greene received his Bachelor of Arts from Southern University in three years as a member of their first accelerated program, and in 1958 he earned his master of education degree from Texas Southern University; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Greene was a great believer in the importance of education, a belief that he lived, as he was a leader in the field of education within his own community; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Joel Greene Sr. was the first native of Eunice to be named principal of Happy Hill Elementary School, a historically majority African-American school, and in 1970 he was the first African American named assistant principal at Eunice High School; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Greene served as an educator in the Lafayette Parish school system for over thirty-five years, teaching generations of children; and

WHEREAS, in 1987 Rev. Greene founded Union Baptist Christian Bookstore in St. Martinville, Louisiana, which remained open until 1992; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Reverend Joel Greene was a founding board member of Southwest Louisiana Primary Healthcare Center in Opelousas, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his duties as an educator, Rev. Greene served the Lord, assuming the pastorate and pastoral duties in the following churches, Morning Star Baptist Church in Midland, Louisiana, for five years, at St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church in Jeanerette, Louisiana, for twelve years, Union Baptist Church in St. Martinville, Louisiana, and Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Opelousas, Louisiana, where he served for over thirty years; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Joel Greene assumed ministerial duties and biblical teaching positions throughout the Union Sixth District Large and Seventy District Missionary Baptist Associations as vice president at large and as an instructor, the Louisiana Baptist State Convention, and the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. as executive advisor and board member; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Joel Scott Greene Sr. served his people as an educator and his Lord as a minister, and his impact was felt through the communities in Southwest Louisiana, including Eunice, St. Martinville, Opelousas, Midland, Jeanerette, and throughout Lafayette Parish, a man whose faith brought him home on April 26, 2019, at the age of eighty-six, and he rests easily in the arms of his Lord.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby offer sincere condolences upon the death of Reverend Joel Scott Greene Sr. who served South Louisiana as an educator and follower of the Lord.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Rev. Joel Scott Greene Sr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE