

2020 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 56

BY REPRESENTATIVES PHELPS AND JENKINS

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Dr. Charley M. Lester, Jr.

WHEREAS, Dr. Charley M. Lester, Jr., was born on February 28, 1934, in Scottsville, Texas, to Charley Sr. and Edna Lester; and

WHEREAS, Charley was raised in a loving household that valued education, as his mother was a school teacher; by the time he entered school, at the age of four, he knew how to count and could recite the alphabet; and

WHEREAS, Charley graduated from Pemberton High School at fifteen years old and received his bachelor's degree from Wiley College three years later; while at Wiley College, he was a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; he began graduate studies at Howard University but decided to pursue a career in dentistry and transferred to Meharry Medical College; while at Meharry, he was elected class president and held that position throughout his time there; Dr. Lester graduated from Meharry with a doctor of dental surgery degree in 1960; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lester joined the United States Air Force; he completed a three-year tour in England where he ran his own dental clinic; after returning from England, he established a dental practice in Shreveport and married his sweetheart from Meharry, Julie Boston; out of their union came two beautiful daughters, Kai and Charmel; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lester opened his dental clinic in the Mooretown community where he also chose to raise his family; he always made sure to give back to his community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lester entered politics in 1971 and was one of the first African Americans to serve on the governing authority of Caddo Parish; he was also a board member of the Community Action Agency, active in the Civil Rights movement, and a member of the Home Mortgage Authority; and

WHEREAS, in his dental career, Dr. Lester was the first African American to serve as a member of the Louisiana State Board of Dental Examiners, named to that position by then Governor Edwin Edwards; he was also an active member of the state and national black dental associations and the American Dental Association for over fifty years; he also received the Louisiana Dental Association Distinguished Service Award in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lester retired from dentistry in 2012, after fifty years of service to his field; he continued to give back to his alma maters and his community even after his retirement, and he was an active member of St. Paul United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, for his many outstanding academic and career accomplishments, Dr. Lester is most deserving of recognition, and he will be truly missed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Dr. Charley M. Lester, Jr.; does hereby recognize Dr. Lester's amazing achievements in his academic life and in the field of dentistry; and does hereby extend sincere hopes and wishes that his family find comfort during this difficult time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Dr. Charley M. Lester, Jr.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES