

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 23

BY REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences on the death of George V. Rainey

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of George V.  
3 Rainey.

4 WHEREAS, George V. Rainey was born in New Orleans and educated in the New  
5 Orleans public school system; he was a member of the first graduating class at Booker T.  
6 Washington High School in 1949; during his graduating year, Louis Armstrong reigned as  
7 King Zulu and performed in the school's auditorium; and

8 WHEREAS, after graduating, Mr. Rainey joined the U.S. Army and served for six  
9 years; upon completing his military duties, he returned home and worked for two years  
10 before opening Rainey's Restaurant and Catering; for fifty years, Rainey's stood as one of  
11 the major African-American-owned restaurants in New Orleans; additionally, Rainey's  
12 catering service provided food for the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival and the Essence  
13 Festival; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Rainey was a deeply committed member of the Zulu Social Aid and  
15 Pleasure Club since 1972; in 1978, he earned the title of "Zulu Big Shot"; his leadership as  
16 a member of Zulu helped the club earn its first ever corporate sponsorship and over forty  
17 additional sponsorships throughout his tenure; he served as a Zulu board member from 1978  
18 to 1993, as vice-president from 1991 to 1996, and, again, as a board member from 1996 until  
19 2007; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Rainey has received numerous awards including being recognized  
2 by President George W. Bush and The Jefferson Award Foundation for his community  
3 service; and

4           WHEREAS, Mr. Rainey's civic involvement and charitable works cannot be  
5 overstated; in 1983, he spearheaded the production of Zulu's first poster series, and in 1993,  
6 he founded New Orleans's world-renowned Zulu Lundi Gras Festival; when Hurricane  
7 Katrina hit New Orleans in 2005, he returned to the city following the leadership of his  
8 pastor, Bishop James Nelson Brown of Fisher Community Church, and served free food to  
9 over one thousand people, daily, for two consecutive months; in 2006, when Mardi Gras was  
10 in jeopardy, he helped co-author a speech that was given before the New Orleans city  
11 council convincing the members to hold the beloved holiday; and

12           WHEREAS, Mr. Rainey's proudest moment came in 2019, when he was chosen as  
13 King Zulu; at eighty-six years old, he became the oldest king in the Zulu Social Aid and  
14 Pleasure Club's history; and

15           WHEREAS, Mr. Rainey was preceded in death by his wife, Jeanne Robinson Rainey,  
16 who passed in 2005; he is survived by his children, Jacquelyn Rainey-Bijou, and her  
17 husband Joseph, Gwendolyn Rainey, Monica Rainey-Washington, and her husband Andrew,  
18 and Oscar J.D. Rainey, and his wife Joan; his brother, Larry C. Rainey, Sr.; Corey L.  
19 Johnson; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; two goddaughters; and his devoted  
20 friend, Irma Owens; and

21           WHEREAS, George V. Rainey possessed the New Orleans spirit in its truest form;  
22 his commitment to and love for his community will live forever in the memories of those  
23 who knew and loved him, and he will be deeply missed.

24           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
25 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of George  
26 V. Rainey; does hereby recognize Mr. Rainey's immense love for the city, people, and  
27 culture of New Orleans; and does hereby extend sincere hopes and wishes that his family  
28 and friends find comfort during this somber time.

29           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
30 family of George V. Rainey.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 23 Original

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