2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY REPRESENTATIVES GARY CARTER AND HUGHES

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

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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 overstated; in 1983, he spearheaded the production of Zulu's first poster series, and in 1993, 5 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)]

HR 26 Original	2020 Second Extraordinary Session	Gary Carter
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