

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9

BY REPRESENTATIVES SCHEXNAYDER, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BACALA, BAGLEY, BEAULLIEU, BISHOP, BOURRIAQUE, BRASS, BROWN, BRYANT, BUTLER, CARPENTER, CARRIER, GARY CARTER, ROBBY CARTER, WILFORD CARTER, CORMIER, COUSSAN, COX, CREWS, DAVIS, DEVILLIER, DESHOTEL, DUBUISSON, DUPLESSIS, ECHOLS, EDMONDS, EDMONSTON, EMERSON, FARNUM, FIRMENT, FONTENOT, FREEMAN, FREIBERG, FRIEMAN, GADBERRY, GAINES, GAROFALO, GEYMANN, GLOVER, GOUDEAU, GREEN, HARRIS, HILFERTY, HODGES, HOLLIS, HORTON, HUGHES, HUVAL, ILLG, IVEY, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, MIKE JOHNSON, TRAVIS JOHNSON, JONES, JORDAN, KERNER, LACOMBE, LANDRY, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MACK, MAGEE, MARCELLE, MARINO, MCCORMICK, MCFARLAND, MCKNIGHT, MCMAHEN, MIGUEZ, DUSTIN MILLER, GREGORY MILLER, MINCEY, MOORE, MUSCARELLO, NELSON, NEWELL, ORGERON, CHARLES OWEN, ROBERT OWEN, PHELPS, PIERRE, PRESSLY, RISER, ROMERO, SCHAMERHORN, SEABAUGH, SELDERS, ST. BLANC, STAGNI, STEFANSKI, TARVER, THOMAS, THOMPSON, TURNER, VILLIO, WHEAT, WHITE, WILLARD, WRIGHT, AND ZERINGUE AND SENATORS ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BARROW, BERNARD, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, CORTEZ, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HARRIS, HENRY, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, JOHNS, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, MORRIS, PEACOCK, PETERSON, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, TALBOT, TARVER, WARD, AND WOMACK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of former state representative

Stephen F. "Steve" Carter of Baton Rouge.

WHEREAS, it was with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Legislature of Louisiana learned of the death of former state representative Stephen F. "Steve" Carter on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at the age of seventy-seven; and

WHEREAS, born on October 29, 1943, and a lifelong resident of Baton Rouge, Steve Carter was the son of Dr. Gipson L. Carter and Mabel Callendar Carter; and

WHEREAS, Steve Carter attended Bernard Terrace Elementary School and was a member of the Class of 1961 of the Louisiana State University Laboratory School, where he excelled as a multisport athlete who played football, basketball, baseball, tennis, and golf; he remained a strong supporter of the school, including by serving as chairman of the school foundation, and in 2003, he was inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from the LSU Lab School, Mr. Carter continued his education at LSU, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in history and served as president of the Student Government Association, captain of and three-year-letterman on the tennis team, vice president of Scabbard and Blade, a lieutenant colonel with the Air Force ROTC, and a member of Sigma Chi; and

WHEREAS, following graduation from LSU, Mr. Carter was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force, where he was honored repeatedly for outstanding achievement, and he was honorably discharged at the rank of captain; and

WHEREAS, after serving his country in the military, Mr. Carter returned to his alma mater and joined the staff of the LSU athletic department; there he served in several important roles, including head tennis coach, where he earned the title of SEC Coach of the Year not once but twice and led the team to its first SEC Championship in more than four decades, assistant athletic director, and associate athletic director for development; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his years of coaching tennis at LSU, Mr. Carter mentored thousands of tennis players through his youth camp, fostering in them a love of the game and instilling the values of hard work and good sportsmanship; in 2006, Mr. Carter was inducted into the Louisiana Tennis Hall of Fame in recognition of his great contributions to the sport he loved; and

WHEREAS, his commitment to his hometown and his servant's heart inspired Steve Carter to run for public office, and in 2008, he began his highly productive three-term tenure as the state representative for House District No. 68, during which time he fully used every opportunity to serve the citizens of his district and the state in an honorable and dedicated manner; and

WHEREAS, during his time in the House of Representatives, Representative Carter worked on and supported many important pieces of legislation, was a steadfast advocate for education and infrastructure issues, and was unwavering in his efforts to improve the welfare not only of his constituents in East Baton Rouge Parish but of people statewide, especially the state's "youngsters", as he often called them; without fail, he explained his rationale during any debate as wanting to do what was best for Louisiana's children; and

WHEREAS, Representative Carter particularly left a mark as chairman of the House Committee on Education (2012-2016); during the historic education reform efforts of 2012, he chaired marathon committee meetings; under circumstances that were challenging because of the lengthy duration, the size of the crowd, and the very heated nature of the debates, he worked hard to make sure that each witness had his or her point of view expressed for the record because he believed in adhering to the procedural safeguards for public notice and participation that are at the heart of the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, Representative Carter's other committee service included serving diligently as vice chairman of the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works and as a member of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs and the House Committee on Ways and Means; he was also the very effective chairman of the Capital Region Legislative Delegation and a member of the Louisiana Republican Legislative Delegation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carter was the recipient of numerous honors and awards throughout his legislative service, including being named a Guardian of Small Business by the Louisiana branch of the National Federation of Independent Business and an Educational Choice Champion by the Louisiana Federation for Children, being honored by the Louisiana Hospital Association as a Champion for Health Care, and being recognized twice by the Southwest Louisiana Chamber of Commerce as Legislator of the Year; and

WHEREAS, a true friend of the community who never met a stranger, Mr. Carter nurtured his friendships, old and new, at church and at local coffee houses and sandwich shops where everybody knew his name, and he had a kind word and a fist bump for everyone he met; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carter was not shy about being a person of compassion and concern for his fellow citizens; also, he truly cared about those he served with in the legislature regardless of political affiliation and was a source of solid support, collegiality, and encouragement to his fellow legislators and to legislative staff, lobbyists, constituents, and all those he visited and worked with at the state capitol; he was open to ideas from anyone and everyone, and he rarely ended a phone call without appreciatively saying, "You're the best"; and

WHEREAS, above all, Steve Carter was a family man who loved being with his wife, Gloria Solomon Carter, who was his best friend; his beloved children in whom he took tremendous pride, Amelia Carter Hunt and Stephen Solomon Carter; his brother and sister-in-law, Dr. Richard and Bicki Carter; his extended family, including his wife's twin sister, Gladys Solomon Brown, with whom he was very close; his son-in-law, Jack Hunt; and especially his four granddaughters, Yvonne, Carter, Julia, and Adelaide, who motivated him to want to make the world a better place and who were the light of his life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carter will be missed profoundly by his family and the many other individuals whose lives he touched with his positivity, charisma, strength of character, and generosity of spirit; and

WHEREAS, with the death of Steve Carter, the state has lost one of her finest sons, a man who will be remembered by all who were lucky enough to know him, including the members of the House family, all of whom mourn the loss of this wonderful man who served this institution and this state so well.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of former state representative Stephen F. "Steve" Carter; does hereby recognize and record for posterity his notable accomplishments and singular contributions during his twelve-year tenure as a distinguished member of the Louisiana House of Representatives; and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the pride and honor that he will forever bring to his family, the Baton Rouge community, and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Steve Carter.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE