

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 60

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARPENTER

A RESOLUTION

To commend Doveal Austin Essex on the occasion of her one hundredth birthday.

WHEREAS, Naomi Doveal Austin was born on May 9, 1921, in Ponchatoula, Louisiana, to Johnie Austin and Katie Cousin Austin; she was christened at Tasker's Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Ponchatoula; and

WHEREAS, Doveal attended elementary school at Ponchatoula's Rosenwald School; she graduated from Kentwood Tangipahoa Parish Training School and enrolled at the formerly named Louisiana Negro Normal, now known as Grambling State University; she graduated in May 1945 with a bachelor of science degree in education and began her professional career as a teacher in Ponchatoula; she later earned a master's degree at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor; and

WHEREAS, Doveal married Henry Leroy Essex on October 11, 1945; Mrs. Essex moved to Grambling to take a position at Grambling's Demonstration School where she taught until 1953; the Essex family increased with the birth of two daughters, Constant Elizabeth and Sylvia Marie; and

WHEREAS, the Essex family moved to Baton Rouge where Doveal worked as an elementary school teacher until she accepted a position at Southern University's College of Education; she worked at Southern University until her retirement, in 1976, after thirty years of dedicated service; and

WHEREAS, today, Mrs. Essex is a member of First Presbyterian Church of Scotlandville where she serves as a Sunday School teacher and served as a past president of the Women of the Church; she also volunteers with Red Cross and Meals on Wheels; she is a docent and member of the Louisiana Arts and Science Museum Board and holds membership in the Gamma Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Baton Rouge Chapter of The Links, Inc., and many other civic organizations; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Essex is a recipient of the Silver Magnolia Award from the Women's Council of Greater Baton Rouge for her community service; and

WHEREAS, Doveal Austin Essex is a true light in the Baton Rouge community; she has selflessly given to others throughout the course of her inspiring life, and she is most deserving of recognition.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Doveal Austin Essex on the occasion of her one hundredth birthday; does hereby recognize Mrs. Essex's devotion to her community; and does hereby extend sincere wishes that she continue to enjoy good health as a new member of the exclusive club of Louisiana's centenarians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Doveal Austin Essex.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES