HLS 21RS-3534 ORIGINAL

2021 Regular Session

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 168

BY REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences on the death of Bertha Bradford Robinson

A RESOLUTION

2	To express the condolences of the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana
3	upon the death of Bertha Bradford Robinson.
4	WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of
5	Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing of Bertha
6	Bradford Robinson; and
7	WHEREAS, Bertha Bradford Robinson was born on August 20, 1946, to Mattie
8	Esther and Leamon Bradford in Jonesboro, Louisiana; and
9	WHEREAS, Bertha accepted Christ at an early age at Pleasant Grove Missionary
10	Baptist Church and remained faithful until her passing; she served in numerous ministries,
11	and her roles included serving as youth director, Sunday school teacher, Baptist Training
12	Union director, Vacation Bible School director, and chair of the deaconess ministry; and
13	WHEREAS, Bertha became highly involved in civil rights activism as a student at
14	Jackson High School from which she graduated in 1964; and
15	WHEREAS, Bertha enrolled at Grambling College, which is now Grambling State
16	University; in 1965, she became the first African-American woman to matriculate at
17	Louisiana Tech University; and
18	WHEREAS, Mrs. Robinson struggled with racism while studying at Louisiana Tech
19	and chose to leave; she returned in 1973 to complete her original mission, and in 1976 she
20	received a bachelor of science degree in early childhood education; and

1	WHEREAS, Bertha joined Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, while
2	attending Louisiana Tech; and
3	WHEREAS, Bertha went on to earn a master's degree and specialist degree from
4	Northwestern State University; she also received an honorary doctorate degree from
5	Louisiana Tech University, and in 2016, the university established the James Potts/Bertha
6	Robinson Scholarship Fund; and
7	WHEREAS, Mrs. Robinson was immensely proud of these accomplishments, but her
8	highest honor was to serve as the Louisiana Tech University 2020 Fall Commencement
9	speaker; and
10	WHEREAS, Bertha was a genuine supporter of children, and she believed that all
11	children had the capacity to learn; she owned and operated a daycare center in Jonesboro for
12	five years and then began a career with the Jackson Parish School Board that spanned forty
13	years, during which she served as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, and director of
14	federal programs; and
15	WHEREAS, Bertha retired in 2016; however, she remained active in her advocacy
16	for education by serving as a consultant to schools throughout Louisiana, and she contributed
17	her time to various boards and civic organizations that work to improve the state's schools;
18	she also offered free tutoring to children in her community; and
19	WHEREAS, Bertha Robinson's love and legacy will continue to live on through her
20	husband, Harvey T. Robinson; her daughters, Yumeaka Washington, and her husband
21	Ronald, and Esther Jewettá Robinson; her grandson, Brett Bernard Washington; her siblings,
22	Mary Hoover, James Bradford, Glory White, and her husband McArthur, Charlean Nelson,
23	and Vivian Bradley; her sister-in-law, Ella Morris; her god-siblings, Marietta Leonard and
24	James "Jimmy" Wilson; and a host of extended family and friends; and
25	WHEREAS, Bertha Bradford Robinson was a true champion of children and she is
26	most deserving of recognition for her inspiring work.
27	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
28	Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Bertha
29	Bradford Robinson; does hereby recognize Bertha's unrelenting commitment to the children

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1 of Louisiana; and does hereby extend sincere wishes that her family and friends find comfort

- 2 knowing that she is at home with God in Heaven.
- 3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
- 4 family of Bertha Bradford Robinson.

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 168 Original

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Jefferson

Expresses the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of Bertha Bradford Robinson.