

BY REPRESENTATIVES BROWN AND BRASS

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of the Reverend

3 Lionel Johnson, Sr.

4 WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of

5 Representatives has learned of the death of the Reverend Lionel Johnson, Sr.; and

6 WHEREAS, Reverend Lionel Johnson, Sr., was a native and lifelong resident of

7 Iberville, Louisiana; and

8 WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson received a bachelor's degree in English from

9 Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College in Baton Rouge; he received

10 a master's degree in curriculum development from the State University of New York at

11 Albany, and he was an alumnus of the Law Enforcement Basic Training Academy at

12 Louisiana State University; and

13 WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson taught English for eight years in East Feliciana

14 Parish; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1974, Reverend Johnson was appointed by Governor Edwin Edwards

16 to the board of supervisors of the newly formed Southern University system, which at the

17 time included Southern University at Baton Rouge, Southern University at New Orleans, and

18 Southern University at Shreveport; and

19 WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson served ten years as chairman of the board of

20 supervisors and he played a key role in the formation of the Southern University System into

21 the first system of historically black colleges and universities in the nation; and

1 WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson was appointed by Governor Edwin Edwards to serve
2 as a member of the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; and

3 WHEREAS, former governors Edwin Edwards and Dave Treen both appointed
4 Reverend Johnson to serve as a member on the Governor's Special Commission on
5 Educational Services, now the Office of Student Financial Assistance, and Reverend Johnson
6 served as both a member and as the chair; and

7 WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson served twenty-eight years as the chief administrative
8 deputy of the Iberville Parish Sheriff's Office; and

9 WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson founded and served as president of the Iberville
10 Coalition of Black Peace Officers; and

11 WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson served his community in numerous capacities
12 including serving as a member and vice-chair of the Iberville Parish Charter Commission,
13 which developed the Iberville Parish home rule charter in 1996; and

14 WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson was appointed by the Iberville Parish School Board
15 as a member and as chair of the Zero Tolerance Commission; and

16 WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson was a founding member and president of East
17 Iberville Community Complex Incorporated and was instrumental in procuring the defunct
18 Sunshine High School and nearly twenty acres of land to provide community services, and
19 the area is now the site of St. Gabriel City Hall; and

20 WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson was an inaugural alderman for the Town of
21 St. Gabriel; he was initially appointed by Governor Edwin Edwards and he was subsequently
22 elected by the citizens of St. Gabriel and served as an alderman for five years; and

23 WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson was a member and the first black president of the
24 Capital Economic Development District Council, which includes the parishes of Ascension,
25 East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena,
26 St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana; and

27 WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson served as a pastor for more than thirty-six years at
28 three churches: First Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Sunshine, Louisiana; St. Joseph
29 Baptist Church in St. Gabriel, Louisiana; and Greater Ebenezer Baptist Church in
30 Plaquemine, Louisiana; and

1 WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson was truly a man with a servant's heart and he
2 exemplified it in his more than forty years of distinguished service to his community and to
3 the state of Louisiana.

4 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
5 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of the
6 Reverend Lionel Johnson, Sr., and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that his family,
7 friends, and church community find comfort in his memory during this difficult time.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
9 family of Reverend Lionel Johnson, Sr.

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 134 Original	2022 Regular Session	Brown
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