SLS 23RS-1083 ORIGINAL

2023 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 39

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX AND REPRESENTATIVE DUSTIN MILLER

CONDOLENCES. Expresses the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of Ambassador James Joseph.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the
passing of Ambassador James Alfred Joseph.
WHEREAS, James A. Joseph, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and public
servant was born on March 12, 1935, in Plaisance and grew up in Opelousas, Louisiana; and
WHEREAS, Ambassador Joseph lived an inspirational American life dedicated to
service, faith, and the fight for equality and social justice; and
WHEREAS, Ambassador Joseph rose to the heights of achievement and
contributions in academia, public service, civil society, and the private sector; and
WHEREAS, Ambassador Joseph served in senior executive or advisory positions for
four U.S. Presidents, including presidents Carter, Clinton, Reagan, and H.W. Bush; and
WHEREAS, Ambassador Joseph was the only U.S. Ambassador to present his
credentials to President Nelson Mandela, and was awarded the Order of Good Hope by the
Republic of South Africa in 1999, their highest honor bestowed on a citizen of another
country; and
WHEREAS, Ambassador Joseph served as President and Chief Executive Officer
of the Council on Foundations, an international organization of more than 2,000 foundations
and corporate giving programs, which changed communities and lives on five continents;

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2	WHEREAS, Ambassador Joseph served as Vice President of Cummins Engine
3	Company, the world's largest producer of heavy-duty diesel engines where he was a pioneer
4	in corporate social responsibility; and
5	WHEREAS, as an ordained minister, Ambassador Joseph taught at Yale Divinity
6	School and the Claremont Colleges where he also was University Chaplain and led student
7	protests against the war in Vietnam; and
8	WHEREAS, Ambassador Joseph was professor emeritus of the practice of public
9	policy at the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University and founder of the United
10	States-Southern Africa Center for Leadership and Public Values, a joint endeavor between
11	Duke University and the University of Cape Town; and
12	WHEREAS, Ambassador Joseph graduated from Southern University in 1956 and
13	obtained a master's degree from Yale Divinity School in 1963; and
14	WHEREAS, after hurricanes Rita and Katrina decimated south Louisiana, Governor
15	Kathleen Blanco named him Chair of the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Louisiana
16	(formerly the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation); and
17	WHEREAS, he was honored as a Louisiana Legend in 2006, was inducted into the
18	Louisiana Political Hall of Fame in 2008, and is a member of the Opelousas Hall of Fame;
19	and
20	WHEREAS, Ambassador Joseph authored four books: The Charitable Impulse;
21	Remaking-America; Leadership as a Way of Being; and Saved for a Purpose: A Journey
22	from Private Virtues to Public Values; and
23	WHEREAS, Ambassador Joseph is the recipient of nineteen honorary degrees and
24	a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and Sigma Pi Phi; and
25	WHEREAS, Ambassador Joseph is mourned by his loving wife, the former Mary
26	Braxton of Sarasota, Florida - an Emmy Award winning television journalist; his son Jeffery
27	and daughter-in-law Lisa Merman; daughter Denise, and his beloved nieces and nephews;
28	and
29	WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents Adam and Julia Joseph, as well
30	as Doris Taylor Joseph, his wife of 33 years, and his brother John who was elected as the

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1	first Black mayor of Opelousas, Louisiana, in 1986; and
2	WHEREAS, a memorial service was held for Ambassador Joseph at the National
3	Cathedral in Washington, D.C. on April 25, 2023; and
4	WHEREAS, it is with great sadness that the passing of Ambassador James A. Joseph,
5	beloved husband, father, grandfather, and public servant is acknowledged.
6	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
7	express sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family of Ambassador James Alfred Joseph
8	upon the occasion of his passing, a great loss to the state and citizens of Louisiana.
9	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his
10	wife, Mary Braxton and his children, Jeffery and Denise.
	The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Dawn Romero Watson.

DIGEST 2023 Regular Session

Boudreaux

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