

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 191

BY SENATOR FIELDS

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of Brother Richard Obra Early.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana learned that Richard Obra Early, endearingly known as Brother Early, departed this life on Thursday, June 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Richard Obra Early, the beloved and only son of Jessie and Clara Early, was born on August 25, 1935, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Brother Early committed over forty years of his life to Southern University and A&M College, diligently serving as a mechanic and supervisor; and

WHEREAS, renowned for his compassion, empathy, and steadfast commitment, Richard Obra Early was a beloved figure among his family, friends, the Southern University campus community, and his unwavering and devoted neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Brother Early's profound influence spanned across his family and the Southern University community, as he left an indelible mark on countless lives through his unwavering respect and kindness as he walked his life of faith; and

WHEREAS, Brother Early, admired by peers, colleagues, and the entire community, exemplified integrity, reliability, and a genuine commitment to surpass expectations in providing aid to those in need; and

WHEREAS, left to cherish the life and memories of Brother Early are his wife of sixty-four years, Ella Mae Beverly Early; his devoted son, Sheldon Keith Early Sr. who is married to Mignon Breaux Early; his beloved daughter, Sherita Early Thomas who is married to Davey Brent Thomas; his cherished sister, Dorothy Early Davis; his adored grandchildren, Megan Marie Early-Soppa who is married to Philipp Kolya Soppa, Sheldon Keith Early Jr. who is married to Lisbeth Hanna Early, Diael Simone Thomas, and Claire Ameer Thomas; and his treasured great-grandchildren, Noah Eloise Early and Sunday Kolya Early-Soppa; and

WHEREAS, his nieces and nephews, Carol T. Brackins, EmClaire Knowles, Willie Smith Jr. Ivy Early, Wanda S. Davis, Karen D. Williams, Judith D. Gibson, DeAnne D. Sutton, Jade Jackson, Justin E. Davis, Paul K. Davis, Elza Charles Brazier, Jerome Kenneth Brazier, and Sidney Green will deeply mourn the loss of Brother Early and hold his memory close to their hearts; and

WHEREAS, the loss of Brother Early creates an irreplaceable void in the hearts and lives of all who had the privilege of knowing him, working alongside him, and above all, sharing in unwavering faith; and

WHEREAS, surrounded by family in Greenville, South Carolina, Brother Early accepted his gift of eternal life on Thursday, June 1, 2023, and was laid to rest on Monday, June 5, 2023, at Southern Memorial Gardens, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, acknowledging the profound loss of Brother Richard Obra Early, the Louisiana Legislature honors his memory and legacy with deep gratitude and fondness for his invaluable contributions to his family, friends, and community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Brother Richard Obra Early.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Brother Richard Obra Early as a testament to the enduring impact of his life.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE