

2024 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 24

BY SENATOR STINE

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences on the death of Pastor Jimmy Stevens.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the  
3 death of Pastor Jimmy Stevens.

4 WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the passing of Pastor  
5 Jimmy Ray Stevens on January 31, 2024, at the age of sixty-seven has been learned; and

6 WHEREAS, Jimmy Ray Stevens was born and raised in Westlake, and he spent  
7 nearly half of his life preaching; and

8 WHEREAS, after graduating from Westlake High School, Jimmy Stevens obtained  
9 a Bachelor of Arts degree from McNeese State University where he made several  
10 contributions to the university; he was the co-founder of the Voices of Truth Gospel Choir,  
11 which is the higher-level gospel choir of McNeese, and he was the president to the Student  
12 Congress of African American Culture at McNeese, leading to the hiring of more black  
13 professors at that university; and

14 WHEREAS, he continued his education through post-graduate studies at New  
15 Orleans Seminary which led to pursuing and obtaining a Master of Theology from  
16 Cornerstone University and, ultimately, he received a Doctor of Ministry from Lake Charles  
17 Bible College; and

18 WHEREAS, Pastor Stevens got his start at the Straightway Baptist Church in Moss

1 Bluff in 1982 before he began preaching at Zion Tabernacle Baptist Church; and

2 WHEREAS, while preaching at Zion Tabernacle Baptist Church, Pastor Stevens  
3 played a major role in developing ministry to young adults in the church and providing  
4 outreach to students at McNeese State University; and

5 WHEREAS, in 2004, Pastor Stevens became the founding pastor of the New  
6 Covenant Faith Baptist Church in Lake Charles; and

7 WHEREAS, Pastor Stevens authored numerous books including *Your Riches in Jesus*  
8 *Christ, New Beginnings, and Champions of Faith*; and

9 WHEREAS, as a highly-involved member of the Lake Charles community, Pastor  
10 Stevens led several local religious organizations and is a former president of the National  
11 Baptist Junior Convention USA, Inc., as well as other community, state, and national  
12 affiliations; and

13 WHEREAS, Pastor Stevens is preceded in death by his parents Reverend Willie  
14 Stevens and Rose Thomas Stevens; and

15 WHEREAS, Pastor Stevens leaves to cherish his memory, his wife of forty years  
16 Sister Patricia Stevens; his daughter, Jamie Patrice Stevens Harrison and her husband JJ  
17 Harrison; his grandsons, Jeremiah Patrick Stevens and, recently born, Jaxson and Jayson  
18 Harrison; Jru Tanner, Jayden, McKenzie, and Hailyn Harrison who knew him as Paw Paw  
19 Jimmy; his brothers, Charles W. Stevens and his wife Malinda, Reverend Dr. Paul D.  
20 Stevens Sr. and his wife Belinda, Reverend Dr. Mitchell J. Stevens Sr. and his wife Kerri,  
21 Anthony L. Stevens and his wife LaTisha; his sisters, Bonita Malbrew and her husband  
22 Donald, and Serena Goodwin and her husband Chester; and a host of nieces, nephews,  
23 friends, and family members; and

24 WHEREAS, he represented all that is good about Louisiana as a man with unique  
25 gifts and a charitable spirit, and with his passing, Louisiana has lost one of its finest citizens,  
26 who left an indelible mark on the lives of the many individuals he touched with his truly  
27 inspiring qualities, and who is now terribly missed but will never be forgotten.

28 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
29 does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences on the death of Pastor Jimmy Stevens.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his

