

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 83

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Donald Johnson and to commemorate the extraordinary legacy of Christian works and service that he leaves behind.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the Louisiana House of Representatives has learned of the death of Donald Johnson of Gonzales, Louisiana, on April 26, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Donald was born to Wilma W. Chatman and the late Thomas J. Johnson in New Orleans, Louisiana, on November 30, 1954, and was raised by his grandmother, the late Willie Helen Johnson; and

WHEREAS, Donald accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior at an early age and stood strongly and steadfastly in his faith for the remainder of his life; and

WHEREAS, on December 12, 1981, Donald married the late Joycelyn Ann Payton Johnson and their union was blessed with four loving children: Linda Marie, Latasha Nicole, David Dwayne, and Toi Cardell Johnson; and

WHEREAS, Donald spent his entire life giving to and nurturing others and he lived each day with the goal of making a positive difference in the world with the Lord as his source of guidance and strength, and he will always be remembered for singing his two favorite hymns, "Walk Around Heaven" and "Trouble Don't Last Always"; and

WHEREAS, Donald was a devoted member of St. Paul Baptist Church of Gonzales, Louisiana, for the majority of his life but later moved his membership to Beacon Light Baptist Church of Baton Rouge, where he served as director of the adult choir and as a transportation driver and choir member; and

WHEREAS, Donald was preceded in death by his wife Joycelyn Payton Johnson, his grandmother, Willie Helen Johnson, his father Thomas J. Johnson, his sister Joyce Earl, his

maternal grandparents Albert and Willie Williams, mother-in-law Augustine M. White, and a devoted cousin Oscar Tillman; and

WHEREAS, Donald leaves to cherish his memory two daughters, Linda Marie and Latasha Nicole and husband Rodericka; three sons, Jeremiah Wenzly, David Dwayne and Toi Cardell; two nephews whom he raised, Ken Barrow and Felton Payton, Jr., and wife Veranique; and six grandchildren, Joy' Don, Jardon, LaTaijia, Dy'Rion, London, and Toi, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Donald also leaves to cherish his memory his mother Wilma W. Chatman; brothers Roy Williams and wife Shirley, La James Chatman and wife Beance, Pastor Kenny Chatman and wife Maria, and Randy Chatman and wife Vicky; sister-in-law Lee Ester Barrow; brothers-in-law Perry Payton, Rev. Terry Coco and wife Debra, Felton Payton and wife Katherine, and Ray Payton and wife Marie; aunts Audrey Sharper, Ruby Sharper, and Ethel and Hilda Mae Williams; a devoted friend, Vethel Johnson, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends; and

WHEREAS, the death of Donald Johnson has left a great void in his community and created a genuine sense of sorrow in all who knew him, and he will be greatly missed by all whose lives he touched.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Donald Johnson and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the pride and honor that this extraordinary man will forever bring to his family and friends, his community, and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Donald Johnson.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES