

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

BY REPRESENTATIVE SHADOIN AND SENATORS GALLOT, THOMPSON, AND
WALSWORTH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Willie Davis, Jr., the former mayor of Farmerville.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the death of Willie Davis, Jr., former mayor of Farmerville, on February 6, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Willie Davis, Jr., who was admired by all those whose lives he touched, leaves behind a rich and unique legacy and will be greatly missed; and

WHEREAS, Willie Davis's journey began on December 5, 1929, as he was welcomed to the Willie Davis, Sr., and Effie Island Davis family; he was the only child born to this union; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis graduated from Union Parish Training School and attended Olive Harvey College in Chicago, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis was a member of Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church until he moved to Chicago in 1960, where he joined Christian Missionary Baptist Church and served as a deacon under the leadership of the Reverend John Taylor; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, he and his family moved back to Farmerville where he rejoined Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church and worked diligently as a deacon, treasurer, and Sunday school teacher; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis loved his country and served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict; he worked and retired as an administrator for United Blood Service and Research in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis owned "D" Inc.-West Street Trailer Park and West Street Day Care; he was also a past Master of Farmerville Lodge #203 F.&A.M. Prince Hall

Affiliation; he was a Sublime Prince L. R. Price Consistory #173, Monroe, Grand Inspector General 33rd Degree United Supreme Council Southern Jurisdiction, past Illustrious Potentate of the Imperial Council Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of Mystic Shrine Jomadi Temple #171, and he was Worthy Patron of the Esther Grand Chapter O.E.S. Budding Rose Chapter #86; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis had a thirst and determination to serve his fellow man; his entire life was a demonstration of altruistic behavior; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis was elected the first black mayor of Farmerville in 1992 and was elected to four terms as mayor of his beloved town; he served with dignity, honor, and distinction for more than sixteen years; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Davis was described as a mayor of all people; during his tenure, he was instrumental in securing funding for the water supply and treatment plant, the expansion of ConAgra Poultry, now known as Pilgrim's Pride, the construction of a new police and fire complex, and many capital improvement projects, including the Farmerville Recreation Center, which was renamed in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Davis met no strangers; he was affable and comfortable around national figures, state officeholders, and everyday citizens, not only in Farmerville but around the world; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Davis was a mentor to younger generations and a friend and confidant to all; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Davis leaves to cherish his precious memories his loving and devoted wife, Georgia Belle Davis; two sons, Willie A. Davis and Randall K. Davis, Sr., and wife Japatra; a very special brother-in-law whom he considered a son, Earl "Sonny" Bernard West and wife Carole; three daughters, Ruby J. Davis Parker and husband Archie, Linda G. Davis Austin, and Valarie A. Davis Fite; three sisters-in-law, Maxine West Bridgeforth, Hattye West, and Minnie Bob West; one brother-in-law, Kenneth L. West; eleven grandchildren, Christopher Davis, Tenisha Austin, Sheena Parker, Jeffrey Fite, Geneva Davis, Randall Davis, Jr., Genae Davis, Krystal Fite, Shailyn Parker, Justin Fite, and Jakarin Fields; four great-grandchildren, Diamond Fite, Julian Powell, Kayla Davis, and Reagan McDonald; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Willie Davis walked with and among giants and did extraordinary and lofty things, but he possessed and demonstrated the common touch; and

WHEREAS, with the death of Willie Davis, Jr., Louisiana has lost one of her finest sons, a quintessential southern gentleman who loved his community and a man whose accomplishments have left an indelible mark upon his town, state, and nation; and

WHEREAS, the death of Willie Davis has left a substantial void in the Farmerville community and a sense of loss in the citizens whose lives he touched, and his memory shall live forever in the minds and hearts of all those who knew and loved this remarkable gentleman.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Willie Davis, Jr., of Farmerville; does hereby record for posterity his singular and outstanding achievements, particularly during his four terms as mayor; and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that he will forever bring to the town of Farmerville, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Willie Davis, Jr.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE