

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 206

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN AND SENATOR WALSWORTH

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences upon the death of Evelyn Blackmon, former state representative

1   A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2   To express the condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of former State  
3           Representative Evelyn Kinnison Blackmon of West Monroe.

4           WHEREAS, with the death of former State Representative Evelyn Blackmon of West  
5   Monroe on Wednesday, May 21, 2014, Louisiana has lost a notable figure in the history of  
6   the Louisiana Legislature; and

7           WHEREAS, Evelyn Blackmon was born in Standard, Louisiana, on November 2,  
8   1924, to Robert Samuel and Emma Horne Kinnison and attended public schools, including  
9   Olla-Standard and Crosley Elementary in West Monroe and Ouachita Parish High School,  
10  from which she graduated in 1942; and

11          WHEREAS, on August 8, 1942, Evelyn married Dr. Edward S. Blackmon, Jr., an  
12  optometrist; they were married for sixty-eight years, until his death, and were the parents of  
13  two children, Dr. Larry Blackmon and Jan Blackmon Mattingly; and

14          WHEREAS, when she was thirty-nine years old, Evelyn entered college at Northeast  
15  Louisiana University (now the University of Louisiana at Monroe) and earned a degree in  
16  business administration, and after graduation she established her own real estate agency,  
17  Evelyn Blackmon, Inc., which she operated for decades; and

18          WHEREAS, Evelyn Blackmon was elected to the Louisiana House of  
19  Representatives in 1983 and served as State Representative for District 15 in Ouachita Parish  
20  from 1984 until 1988, having decided to run for the office while attending a legislative

1 reception hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, at which then incumbent Shady Wall  
2 announced he was not going to run for reelection; and

3 WHEREAS, as a legislator Evelyn Blackmon served on the House Committee on  
4 Ways and Means, the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the House Committee on  
5 Commerce, and the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay, and she was instrumental  
6 in legislation concerning the Agent Orange registry, licensing of daycare centers, care  
7 attendants, economic development, and in securing the I-20 Camp Road interchange; and

8 WHEREAS, this unassuming woman achieved so many firsts that she may readily  
9 be characterized as a pioneer woman; she was the first woman graduate of the University of  
10 Louisiana at Monroe (then Northeast Louisiana University) College of Business  
11 Administration in Industrial Management (1967); the first woman in Louisiana to earn the  
12 prestigious Certified Commercial Investment Member Realtor designation (1974); the first  
13 woman to serve on the Louisiana Board of Commerce and Industry (1976); the first woman  
14 president in the sixty-year history of Louisiana Realtors Association (1978); the first woman  
15 elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives from Ouachita Parish District 15 (1984);  
16 and one of only five women elected to serve in the House when she was elected; and

17 WHEREAS, as a realtor for over fifty years, Evelyn Blackmon's notable  
18 accomplishments included helping to secure the property that is the current site of the West  
19 Monroe Post Office and being instrumental in the acquisition of the Glenwood Mall to be  
20 innovatively used as a Medical Mall, and she took justified pride in helping families realize  
21 "The American Dream of Home Ownership"; and

22 WHEREAS, before and after her legislative service, Evelyn Blackmon was very  
23 active in her community as evidenced by her being awarded the Northeast Louisiana  
24 University Golden Arrow Award in 1988, the Quota Woman of the Year in 1995, and the  
25 West Monroe/West Ouachita Chamber of Commerce A.O. Evans Award in 1996; she also  
26 served as a director of the Citizens' Advisory Board of the West Ouachita Industrial District,  
27 as president of the university alumni association and chair of the university's alumni fund;  
28 and she was a lifelong member of the First Baptist Church of West Monroe; and

1           WHEREAS, Evelyn Blackmon was preceded in death by her parents, her husband,  
2 and her sister Dorothy Kinnison of West Monroe, and she is survived by her two children  
3 and by grandchildren and great grandchildren and a large extended family; and

4           WHEREAS, Evelyn Kinnison Blackmon represented all that is good about  
5 Louisiana, for as her accomplishments attest, she was dedicated to her state, her community,  
6 her family, and her church.

7           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
8 express sincere condolences to the family and friends of former State Representative Evelyn  
9 Kinnison Blackmon upon her death and does record in the annals of Louisiana history, not  
10 only the effective service of Evelyn Blackmon to the people of her district and to the state  
11 of Louisiana, but also the special place this remarkable woman, who achieved so many firsts  
12 as a woman in business and government, will always have in the celebrated history of the  
13 Louisiana Legislature.

14           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
15 family of former State Representative Evelyn K. Blackmon.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Hoffmann

HCR No. 206

Expresses the condolences of the legislature upon the death of former State Representative Evelyn Kinnison Blackmon of West Monroe.