

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 206

BY REPRESENTATIVES HOFFMANN, ABRAMSON, ADAMS, ANDERS, ARMES, ARNOLD, BADON, BARRAS, BARROW, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, STUART BISHOP, WESLEY BISHOP, BROADWATER, BROWN, BURFORD, HENRY BURNS, TIM BURNS, BURRELL, CARMODY, CARTER, CHAMPAGNE, CHANEY, CONNICK, COX, CROMER, DANAHAY, DIXON, DOVE, EDWARDS, FANNIN, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GAROFALO, GEYMANN, GISCLAIR, GREENE, GUILLORY, GUINN, HARRIS, HARRISON, HAVARD, HAZEL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILL, HODGES, HOLLIS, HONORE, HOWARD, HUNTER, HUVAL, IVEY, KATRINA JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JOHNSON, JONES, KLECKLEY, LAMBERT, NANCY LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LOPINTO, LORUSSO, MACK, MILLER, MONTOUCET, MORENO, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, NORTON, ORTEGO, PEARSON, PIERRE, PONTI, POPE, PRICE, PUGH, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, RITCHIE, ROBIDEAUX, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHRODER, SEABAUGH, SHADOIN, SIMON, SMITH, ST. GERMAIN, STOKES, TALBOT, THIBAUT, THIERRY, THOMPSON, WHITNEY, ALFRED WILLIAMS, PATRICK WILLIAMS, WILLMOTT, AND WOODRUFF AND SENATORS ADLEY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD, AND WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Evelyn Blackmon was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1983 and served as State Representative for District 15 in Ouachita Parish from 1984 until 1988, having decided to run for the office while attending a legislative reception hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, at which then incumbent Shady Wall announced he was not going to run for reelection; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, before and after her legislative service, Evelyn Blackmon was very active in her community as evidenced by her being awarded the Northeast Louisiana University Golden Arrow Award in 1988, the Quota Woman of the Year in 1995, and the

West Monroe/West Ouachita Chamber of Commerce A.O. Evans Award in 1996; she also served as a director of the Citizens' Advisory Board of the West Ouachita Industrial District, as president of the university alumni association and chair of the university's alumni fund; and she was a lifelong member of the First Baptist Church of West Monroe; and

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE