

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 245

BY REPRESENTATIVES DUPLESSIS AND JIMMY HARRIS

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Otis J.

"Coach" Washington, Jr.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sadness that the members of the Louisiana House of Representatives have learned of the death of coaching legend Otis J. Washington, Jr., on May 24, 2019, at the age of eighty; and

WHEREAS, Otis J. Washington, Jr., was born to Otis, Sr., and Sadie Washington in Selma, Alabama; he graduated from R.B. Hudson High School and Xavier University; he was the captain of Xavier's last football team and garnered all-conference accolades in both football and baseball; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating, he accepted a coaching position at St. Augustine High School in New Orleans, where he coached for eighteen years and produced one of the state's most successful coaching tenures; and

WHEREAS, "Coach Wash", as he was known, was the winningest coach in St. Augustine football history; he served as head football coach at "St. Aug" from 1969 to 1979, winning seven district titles, three championships, and plenty of recognition in the Louisiana football community; and

WHEREAS, he was a leader on and off the field; he preached discipline and selflessness; during a time when acceptance came grudgingly, Coach Washington proudly led an all-black powerhouse football program; he moved to coaching college football thereafter; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Coach Washington was the first black football coach at Louisiana State University (LSU) and from 1981 to 1986, he was head football coach at

Southern University in Baton Rouge; after stints as assistant coach at LSU and Tulane University, he returned to New Orleans and served as the director of the New Orleans Police Athletic League; and

WHEREAS, Coach Washington has been inducted into the Louisiana High School Athletic Association Sports Hall of Fame, Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in Natchitoches, New Orleans Sports Hall of Fame, Southern University Sports Hall of Fame, St. Augustine High School Hall of Fame, and Xavier University Wall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Coach Washington was also named an All-Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference offensive guard and linebacker at Xavier University, a New Orleans States-Item Coach of the Year, and honored with the Louisiana Sportswriters Association Coach of the Year Award and the Louisiana National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Unsung Hero Award; and

WHEREAS, left to cherish his memory are his wife of nearly fifty-three years, Linda P. Washington; siblings, Carol C. Black, Olivia Washington, Charlene W. Brown, Theopolis, Sr., and his wife Jacqueline, Sharon D. Williams, and her husband Tyrone R., Sr., and Irma Ruth McQueen; sisters-in-law, Isranell P. Thomas, Idell Jefferson, Audrey Patterson, and Carolyn Patterson; brothers-in-law, Frank Patterson, Jeffery Patterson, Willie Patterson, Lionel Patterson, and Terry Patterson; godchildren, Alfred E. Harrell, III, Talisha Davis, Erin Burns, Don Bailey, and Alisha Moten; special "grandchildren", Hannah Kimbrough and Angel Lydia Harrell; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends; and

WHEREAS, although the death of Coach Washington has left a tremendous void in the Louisiana athletic community, and in the lives of his family, friends, and former students and players, this uniquely gifted gentleman shall live forever in the minds, hearts, and memories of all who knew and loved him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express condolences upon the death of Otis J. "Coach" Washington, Jr; does hereby recognize and record for posterity his singular contributions and achievements, especially during his tenure as assistant and head coach for multiple football programs; and does hereby express gratitude for the indelible mark that his enduring legacy has left upon the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Otis J. Washington, Jr.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES