

2020 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Dr. Birdex Copeland, Jr.

WHEREAS, Dr. Copeland was born in Holly, Louisiana in 1943 to Birdex, Sr. and Viola Wilson Copeland; he was one of seven children born to this union; Dr. Copeland grew up in Mansfield, where he attended the local schools during his formative years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Copeland received a bachelor's degree in sociology from Grambling State University, a master of social work from Atlanta University, and a doctorate degree from Kansas State University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Copeland served as a professor at Grambling State University throughout his career; he also served as head of the Department of Sociology and dean of the School of Social Work during his tenure; upon his retirement, Dr. Copeland was named Dean Emeritus of Grambling's School of Social Work, an honor that recognized his impact in the Grambling community, North Louisiana, the Mississippi Delta, nationally, and internationally; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Copeland also served his community in many other capacities outside of his work at the university; he was chairman of the Grambling Legends Square Taxing District, which played a pivotal role in the construction of the Legends Square Shopping Center in Grambling; he was also a member of the Grambling Economic Development Corporation, which works to drive economic development in the city, and served on the Grambling city council; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Copeland was chairman of the board of directors of the Shreveport Federal Credit Union/Grambling Credit Union and was proud to represent the credit union movement for over forty years; his work as chairman earned him an induction into the African-American Credit Union Coalition Hall of Fame in 2016; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his tireless work towards economic development of his community, Dr. Copeland was a deacon at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Grambling and served as both the church treasurer and a youth Sunday school teacher for many years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Copeland is survived by his wife, Lolita Collins Copeland; children, Brian Mandel Copeland and Beryl Copeland Washington, and her husband Leonardo; siblings, Charles Copeland, and his wife Wanda, Bettye Copeland, Mary Ellen Copeland, and Gloria Copeland Jones, and her husband Donald; granddaughters Virginia Allison and Lea Bryanna Copeland; and a host of other relatives; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Copeland employed his personal academic successes towards the betterment of his community; his selfless commitment to serve others is worthy of the highest recognition; he will be deeply missed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death on Dr. Birdex Copeland, Jr.; does hereby offer sincere appreciation to Dr. Copeland for his selfless commitment to ensuring the betterment of the Grambling community; and does hereby extend sincere hopes and wishes that his family and friends find comfort knowing that he has returned to his heavenly home to be with God the Father.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Dr. Birdex Copeland, Jr.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES