

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 79

BY REPRESENTATIVE LYONS

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Lloyd Price,
American rhythm and blues artist.

WHEREAS, it is with immense sorrow and profound regret that the House of Representatives has learned of the death of Lloyd Price on May 3, 2021, at the age of eighty-eight; and

WHEREAS, Lloyd Price was born on March 9, 1933, in Westchester County, New York, and raised in Kenner, Louisiana; his mother, Beatrice Price, owned the Fish 'n' Fry Restaurant, and there, Lloyd developed a lifelong interest in business and the food industry; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Price was a formally trained trumpeter and pianist; he also sang in his church's gospel choir and was a member of a combo musical act in high school; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Price helped draw national attention to the unique and burgeoning rhythm and blues sound of New Orleans with his first No. 1 R&B hit, "Lawdy Miss Clawdy", in 1952; he followed up this hit with singles such as "Oooh-Oooh-Oooh", "Ain't It a Shame", and "Tell Me Pretty Baby", which all reached the Top 10 on the American R&B charts between 1952 and 1953; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Price's musical career was halted until 1957 after he served a stint in the United States Army during the Korean War; he returned to the top of the R&B charts with the release of his No. 3 hit song, "Just Because"; this song was the first piece released through his own label, KRC Records; and

WHEREAS, Price's KRC Records partnered with ABC Records to release several more hits, including the 1958 No. 1 R&B/Pop hit single, "Stagger Lee", which sold over one million copies; together the labels also released another hit single in the pop crossover "Personality" and a top-three Pop/R&B hit, "I'm Gonna Get Married"; from 1959 until 1969, he released numerous hits including "Three Little Pigs", "Come Into My Heart", "Lady Luck", and many more; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Price toured Europe in 1993 with Jerry Lee Lewis, Little Richard, and Gary U.S. Bonds; he also performed with soul legends Jerry Butler, Gene Chandler, and Ben E. King on the "Four Kings of Rhythm and Blues" tour in 2005; and

WHEREAS, as a singer-songwriter, Mr. Price launched several labels after KRC Records, including Double L Records, LPG Records, and Turntable; he also opened a club in New York City named "Turntable" and delved into several other business ventures including construction, affordable housing in New York, and even boxing promotion with Don King; he helped promote the iconic 1974 "Rumble in the Jungle" boxing match between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman in Kinshasa, Zaire, and arranged the preceding "Zaire 74" music festival featuring Bill Withers, BB King, James Brown, The Spinners, and Miriam Makeba; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Price was awarded with the Pioneer Award by the Rhythm and Blues Foundation in 1994, was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1998, received an honorary doctorate from Southern University and A&M College in 2001, entered the National Black Sports & Entertainment Hall of Fame in 2001, was inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame in 2010, and joined the National Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Price published an autobiography titled *Lawdy Miss Clawdy: The True King of the 50s: The Lloyd Price Story* in 2009 and later penned a series of empowering essays for his 2015 book, *Sumdumhonky*; and

WHEREAS, Lloyd Price Avenue in Kenner was named in honor of the singer in 1995, and the city celebrates an annual Lloyd Price Day; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Price is survived by his wife Jackie, three daughters, and two sons; and

WHEREAS, Lloyd Price is an American R&B icon and a true Louisiana legend; his memory will live on forever in his impressive catalog of musical hits and in his written works; 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 of Lloyd Price; does hereby record for posterity his truly amazing contributions to the rhythm and blues music scene; does hereby recognize the tremendous pride and honor that Mr. Price has brought to the city of Kenner and the great state of Louisiana; and does hereby extend sincere hopes that his family find comfort during this difficult time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Lloyd Price.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES