

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 115

BY SENATORS PRICE, ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BARROW, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, CORTEZ, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HARRIS, HENRY, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, MORRIS, PEACOCK, POPE, REESE, SMITH, STINE, TARVER, WARD, WHITE AND WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Reverend Lionel Johnson Sr.

WHEREAS, Reverend Lionel Johnson Sr. was a native and lifelong resident of Iberville, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson received a bachelor's degree in English from Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College in Baton Rouge; he received a master's degree in curriculum development from the State University of New York at Albany; and he was an alumnus of the Law Enforcement Basic Training Academy at Louisiana State University; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson taught English for eight years in East Feliciana Parish; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Reverend Johnson was appointed by then-Governor Edwin Edwards to the Board of Supervisors of the newly formed Southern University System, which at the time included Southern University at Baton Rouge, Southern University at New Orleans, and Southern University at Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson served ten years as the chairman of the Southern University System Board of Supervisors and he played a key role in the formation of the Southern University System into the first system of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson was appointed by Governor Edwin Edwards to serve as a member of the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; and

WHEREAS, former Governors Edwin Edwards and Dave Treen both appointed Reverend Johnson to serve as a member on the Governor's Special Commission on Educational Services, now the Office of Student Financial Assistance, and Reverend Johnson served as both a member and as the chair; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson served twenty-eight years as the chief administrative deputy of the Iberville Parish Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson founded and served as president of the Iberville Coalition of Black Peace Officers; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson served his community in numerous capacities including serving as a member and vice-chair of the Iberville Parish Charter Commission, which developed the Iberville Parish president-council home rule charter form of government in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson was appointed by the Iberville Parish School Board as a member and as the chair of the Zero Tolerance Commission; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson was a founding member and president of the East Iberville Community Complex Incorporated and was instrumental in procuring the defunct Sunshine High School and nearly twenty acres of land to provide community services, and the area is now the site of the St. Gabriel City Hall; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson was an inaugural alderman for the Town of St. Gabriel; he was initially appointed by Governor Edwin Edwards and he was subsequently elected by the citizens of St. Gabriel and served as an alderman of the town of St. Gabriel for five years; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson was a member and the first black president of the Capital Economic Development District Council, which includes the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson served as a pastor for more than thirty-six years at three churches: the First Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Sunshine, Louisiana; the St. Joseph Baptist Church in St. Gabriel, Louisiana; and the Greater Ebenezer Baptist Church in Plaquemine, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson was truly a man with a servant's heart and he exemplified it in his more than forty years of distinguished service to his community and to the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Reverend Lionel Johnson Sr. on the occasion of his passing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Reverend Johnson's wife, Evelyn Johnson.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE