

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 97

BY SENATOR MIZELL

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of James Mason Ballard Sr.

WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound sorrow that the members of the Senate and the citizens of Louisiana have learned of the death of James Mason Ballard Sr. on March 4, 2025; and

WHEREAS, James Mason Ballard Sr. was born in Monroe, Louisiana, on June 21, 1931, and was instilled with the values of hard work, integrity, and service to others, and these values shaped his lifelong dedication to both his country and his community; and

WHEREAS, James Mason Ballard Sr. joined the United States Navy, where he was stationed aboard the USS Agerholm (DD-826) before being honorably discharged and pursuing a career that would impact generations to come; and

WHEREAS, he earned his Bachelor of Science in Education from Southern University and A&M College, where he went on to dedicate thirty-one years to shaping young minds, particularly at Pine High School, where his influence stretched far beyond the classroom as he guided students toward brighter futures with wisdom, patience, and a deep belief in their potential; and

WHEREAS, James, a man of unwavering faith, was a dedicated member of Holy Family Catholic Church in Franklinton, Louisiana, where his service and commitment to his faith community earned him induction into the Order of St. Louis IX in 2003; and

WHEREAS, his dedication to public service and strengthening his community was evident and continued throughout his life with his involvement in various organizations, including the Rural Franklinton Water Corporation Board, where he was a founding member, the Knights of Columbus (4th Degree), the American Legion, American Association of Retired Persons, the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association, and the National Association of Educators; and

WHEREAS, James Mason Ballard Sr. leaves behind to cherish his memory his loving wife, Ruby Nelle Harrison Ballard; his children; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and former students and colleagues; and

WHEREAS, his unwavering dedication to his family, students, his faith, and community represents the very best of Washington Parish and the state, and leaves a legacy that will continue to inspire and shape the future of generations to come.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the passing of James Mason Ballard Sr.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Ruby Nelle Harrison Ballard.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE