

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 148

BY REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON

CONDOLENCES: Expresses the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of Bessie D. Smith

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Bessie D.
3 Smith.

4 WHEREAS, Bessie D. Smith, a beloved native of Shreveport, Louisiana, dedicated
5 her life to service, leadership, and the betterment of her community; and

6 WHEREAS, Bessie was a devoted wife to Willie Smith, President of the Stoner Hill
7 Neighborhood Action Group, and stood as a pillar of strength and compassion within the
8 Stoner Hill community; and

9 WHEREAS, Mrs. Smith was a retired educator, a certified leader, and an active
10 member of Hopewell Baptist Church, where she served faithfully as director of new
11 members; and

12 WHEREAS, her extensive civic engagement included roles with Citizens for Quality
13 Education, the CCAA, the Metropolitan Planning Commission, the Shreveport Women's
14 Commission, Greater Shreveport Human Relations Commission, and many others, including
15 Habitat for Humanity and the Weed and Seed Steering Committee; and

16 WHEREAS, Bessie Smith played a vital role in community development, improving
17 the Stoner Hill area block by block by installing drainage systems, defining boundaries, and
18 enhancing infrastructure; and

19 WHEREAS, under her leadership, the C.E. Galloway Head Start Center was
20 established; Bessie provided support to E.B. Williams Elementary Lab School, Valencia
21 Community Center, and rehabilitation programs for senior citizens; and

1 WHEREAS, Mrs. Smith's tireless efforts and volunteerism led to the Bessie D. Smith
2 Park being named in honor of her service and contributions to the neighborhood; and

3 WHEREAS, she was affectionately known as the "Mayor of Stoner Hill" and
4 remained a tireless advocate for voter registration, youth programs, home rehabilitation,
5 education, and community art; and

6 WHEREAS, Bessie Smith will be remembered for her love of reading, cooking,
7 music, and most of all, her deep love for others, always guided by her cherished motto, "God
8 is Love" and her words, "You Know I Love You"; her legacy of compassion, leadership, and
9 service will forever remain in the hearts of the residents of her Shreveport community.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
11 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Bessie
12 D. Smith and does hereby extend deepest sympathies to her family, friends, and all those
13 whose lives she touched.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 148 Original

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Jackson

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