

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 148

BY REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES