

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 13

BY REPRESENTATIVE KNOX

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Dorothy Prevost, the last living matriarch of the 1960 New Orleans public school desegregation movement.

WHEREAS, Dorothy Prevost was the mother of the late Tessie Prevost-Williams and was the last living parent of the New Orleans Four who desegregated public schools in New Orleans, Louisiana, on November 14, 1960; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Prevost, Mrs. Eula Mae Etienne, Mrs. Lucille Bridges, and Mrs. Louise Tate made the courageous decision to send their six-year-old daughters, Tessie Prevost, Gail Etienne, Ruby Bridges, and Leona Tate, into previously all-white public schools under federal protection; their daughters' enrollment marked a pivotal moment in the enforcement of *Brown v. Board of Education* in the Deep South and became a defining chapter in the modern civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, the display of bravery made by these mothers and their daughters inspired the Birmingham Children's Crusade of 1963 and reignited the national momentum of the civil rights movement; their efforts played a pivotal role in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Prevost worked tirelessly to ensure that history fully acknowledges the sacrifices of all four of these civil rights leaders; in 2020, the New Orleans City Council unanimously supported a resolution establishing November 14 as New Orleans Four Day, and the mayor presented Ms. Etienne, Ms. Tate, and Mrs. Prevost-Williams with keys to the city; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Prevost displayed a measure of courage that reshaped the trajectory of American democracy; her courage enforced the constitution, her faith advanced justice, and her sacrifice expanded opportunity for Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Prevost is a civil rights and American icon whose inspiring legacy is forever preserved in the country's history.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Dorothy Prevost, the last living matriarch of the 1960 New Orleans public school desegregation movement, and does hereby encourage all Louisianians to honor her inspiring life and legacy of courage.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES