

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 14

BY REPRESENTATIVE WALTERS

CONDOLENCES: Expresses the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of the Reverend Dr. William J. Shaw

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of the Reverend
3 Dr. William J. Shaw.

4 WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of
5 Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing, on March 7,
6 2026, of the Reverend Dr. William J. Shaw; and

7 WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. William J. Shaw was born in Marshall, Texas, and
8 was the youngest of six children; he was baptized at the age of seven and accepted the call
9 to ministry at an early age; and

10 WHEREAS, Reverend Shaw delivered his trial sermon at the age of eleven and was
11 ordained at the age of seventeen while already serving a small Texas congregation; and

12 WHEREAS, Reverend Shaw graduated summa cum laude from Bishop College at
13 nineteen years old and earned degrees from Union Theological Seminary and Colgate
14 Rochester Divinity School; and

15 WHEREAS, Reverend Shaw became the pastor of White Rock Baptist Church in
16 West Philadelphia in 1956; he guided the one hundred twenty-seven-year-old church for
17 seven decades, making him one of the region's longest-tenured and most influential
18 ministers; and

19 WHEREAS, Reverend Shaw rarely missed a Sunday during his seventy-year tenure
20 and devoted his ministry to nurturing congregants through preaching, mentorship, and

1 pastoral care; his "Sheepfold Ministry" empowered lay leaders to comfort families, visit the
2 sick, and support one another in the community; and

3 WHEREAS, Reverend Shaw served two terms as president of the National Baptist
4 Convention USA, Inc.; he was recognized for his leadership at the highest levels of
5 American government, and President Barack Obama appointed him to the President's
6 Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and the United States
7 Commission on International Religious Freedom; and

8 WHEREAS, Reverend Shaw was an incredibly civic-minded individual who made
9 significant contributions to the Philadelphia community; he served as executive director of
10 the Opportunities Industrialization Center and served on the boards of Junior Achievement
11 of the Delaware Valley and Penn Medicine, where he chaired the trustee board of the
12 Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania; and

13 WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. William J. Shaw is survived by his son, Timothy; two
14 granddaughters; and several great-grandchildren; he will be deeply missed, but the legacy
15 of his service shall live on in perpetuity in the hearts and minds of those he served.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
17 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of the
18 Reverend Dr. William J. Shaw and does hereby extend sincere wishes that his family,
19 friends, congregation, and loved ones find comfort in their shared memories of his beautiful
20 life.

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 14 Original

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Walters

Expresses the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of the Rev. Dr. William J. Shaw.