

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 22

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARPENTER

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of D'Orsay Deavenport Bryant, Jr., M.D.

WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing, on February 20, 2026, of D'Orsay Deavenport Bryant, Jr., M.D.; and

WHEREAS, D'Orsay Deavenport Bryant, Jr., was born on September 9, 1932, to Cecil Barbara McIntosh and D'Orsay D. Bryant, Sr., in Washington, D.C.; he grew up in the nation's capital and attended the historic Dunbar High School, which he credits with instilling in him a lifelong respect for education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bryant attended Howard University, where he was elected to serve as president of the freshman class, was named to the Dean's List and various honor societies, and joined the Xi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bryant graduated in 1954 and entered the Howard University School of Medicine, where he excelled academically and was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society; he graduated from medical school in 1958 and began an internship at Freedmen's Hospital and a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Freedmen's and D.C. General Hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bryant fulfilled his ROTC obligation and began service as a captain in the United States Army; he was stationed at Fort Dix in New Jersey and served from 1963 to 1965; after completing his military service, he relocated to Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bryant established an obstetrics and gynecology practice in 1965 and flourished as a medical provider who delivered generations of babies in Baton Rouge and the surrounding areas; for ten years he served as the only Black board-certified OB-GYN in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bryant took great pride in being credentialed at the highest level of his area of specialization; he served as a diplomate of the American Board of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and as a fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology; in addition to his private practice, he served as a clinical instructor of obstetrics and gynecology at the Louisiana State University College of Medicine from 1966 to 1981; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bryant was an incredibly civic-minded and engaged citizen in the Baton Rouge community; he was an active member of the NAACP and served as the president of the Baton Rouge branch from 1966 to 1980; his activism included pursuing educational equity for students of color in East Baton Rouge Parish, and he was a plaintiff-intervenor in one of the last desegregation suits in East Baton Rouge Parish; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bryant established the Acadian Women's Clinic in 1978; the clinic served as an extension of his medical practice and offered access to comprehensive reproductive services when legalized in the state; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bryant was a fervent supporter of community-based health initiatives, including the Stop Rape Crisis Team and the NAACP's National Health Committee, and he served as a board member of the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation and the Baton Rouge Cancer Society; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bryant assumed numerous leadership roles in professional organizations; he served as vice president of the Louisiana State Health Coordinating Council in 1975; president of the East Baton Rouge Parish Medical Association in 1974, 1982, and 1984; president of the Louisiana State Medical Association in 1970 and 1985; and on the Louisiana State Medical Care Advisory Committee in 1974; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bryant's social and civic affiliations included Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Alpha Xi Boule; the East Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce; Masonic: East End Lodge 209, Baton Rouge Consistory No. 179; Shiners, Ishmael Temple, Baton Rouge; and the 33rd Degree United Supreme Council; he garnered numerous civic awards and citations for his activities in civil rights and youth-related activities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bryant is survived by his wife, Kathy Weaver Bryant; children, Dr. D'Orsay Deavenport Bryant, III (Karen); Sharon Bryant Zimmerman (James); Sherri Bryant-Moore; Leighton Butler Bryant (Sharri Lynn); Damon Allen Bryant; Dorian Lamar

Matthews; Drexel LaSalle Matthews; and D'Orci DeShay Bryant; stepsons, Aaron Mitchell Weaver and Neil Clifton Weaver; grandchildren, D'Orsay Deavenport Bryant, IV; Carter Ashton Fabre Bryant (Haley); Claire Estelle Moore; Kristin Dollison Moore; Olivia Alexis Zimmerman; Nicolas Jordan Zimmerman; Leia Briana Bryant; Davin Bryant; Brenden Bryant; and Devereaux London Matthews; great-grandchild, Josiah Moore; sisters-in-law, Hedi M. Butler, Nina Mitchell Wells (Ted), Vicki Mitchell Pendleton, and Lauren A. Smith (James Boll); brothers-in-law, Eric I. Mitchell (Carmen) and J. Peter Mitchell (Pat); nieces, Lynn Whitfield, Kimberleigh Butler-Smith, Shawne Langston Emery, and Donna Pierce Lazarchik; and nephews, Duane D. Pierce and Clifton F. Nelson, III; and

WHEREAS, Dr. D'Orsay Deavenport Bryant, Jr., was a pioneer in the field of medicine and a dedicated servant of the citizens of Louisiana; he will be deeply missed, but the legacy of his service shall live in perpetuity in the hearts and minds of those who were privileged to have known and loved him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of D'Orsay Deavenport Bryant, Jr., M.D.; does hereby extend enduring appreciation for his incredible contributions as a medical professional and community advocate in Louisiana; and does hereby offer sincere wishes that his family, friends, and loved ones find comfort in their shared memories of his beautiful life.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES