

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY REPRESENTATIVES LARVADAIN, DEWITT, AND MIKE JOHNSON AND
SENATOR LUNEAU

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana on the death of Dr. Joe S. Green,
"The Bayou Bishop".

WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing, on February 20, 2026, of Dr. Joe S. Green, "The Bayou Bishop"; and

WHEREAS, Joe S. Green was born on May 20, 1940, in Pineville, Louisiana, to Henry Green, Sr., and Ada Morris Green and grew up as a farm boy along Bayou Rapides; and

WHEREAS, in his youth, Joe was active in many activities and ministries in the church and community; he was a regular attendee at First Evening Star Baptist Church, and in 1949, he accepted Christ on Good Friday and was baptized on Easter Sunday by the late Reverend Luke Williams; and

WHEREAS, Joe began his educational journey at Morning Star School, which was housed in Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church; he graduated from Peabody High School in 1958 and continued his education at Southern University in Baton Rouge, United Theological Seminary and Bible College, and Dominican College in Racine, Wisconsin; he held numerous degrees, including a bachelor of theology, master of religion, master of theology, and doctorate of divinity; and

WHEREAS, Joe participated in the Army ROTC during his time at Southern; two years after his enrollment, he was drafted into the military and joined the Special Forces in the 82nd Airborne Division; he retired from the military after twenty-six years of active duty and reserve service; and

WHEREAS, Joe married his high school sweetheart, Josephine Reed Green, on October 1, 1962; their union was blessed with three children, and they built a family with values rooted in love and faith; and

WHEREAS, Joe accepted the call to ministry while serving as a deacon at Second Evening Star Baptist Church in Boyce, Louisiana, and delivered his first sermon to a congregation of over seven hundred people at the church on Sunday, January 31, 1982; the next week, he accepted the call to serve as pastor of St. Thomas Missionary Baptist Church in Boyce and served there for one year; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Green began serving as pastor of St. Matthew Baptist Church in Rapides Parish in February 1983; he served the church for three decades, during which the congregation grew from fifty members to more than one thousand two hundred members; during his tenure he founded Rapides Station Community Ministries, Inc., and C&J Learning and Enrichment Center; he also supported the development of low-income housing for qualified first-time home buyers throughout Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, prior to serving as pastor St. Matthew Baptist Church, Dr. Green worked as a job recruiter and trainer for the United States Department of Labor, where he helped develop the Red River waterway; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Green's religious affiliations included the National Baptist Convention of America, Louisiana Home & Foreign Mission, Baptist State Convention, United Theological Seminary and Bible College, and United Educational Missionary Baptist Association; he also served as president of the Minister of Economic Development; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Joe S. Green is survived by his daughters, Janice Green Washington (Sam), Jacquelyn Green Harris, and Jennifer Green Williams (Darrell); grandchildren, Janeé Green, Javaris Cooper (Lauren), Morgan Cooper Harris (Micheal Jr.), Demetrius Jackson, Shundrial Jackson, Samantha Washington, Salisa Washington, and Evan Clark; great-grandchildren, Jayla Brown, Jaiden Veales, and Jamari Veales; sisters-in-law, Dorothy Woodland, Willie Mae Powell, Roberta Brown (Odell), Susie Green, Evelyn Green, Brenda Allen, and Lillian Green; cousin, J.C. Green; and a host of nieces, nephews, godchildren, relatives, and friends; he will be deeply missed, but the legacy of his love and service shall live on in perpetuity in the hearts and minds of those who were privileged to have known him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Dr. Joe S. Green, "The Bayou Bishop"; does hereby extend enduring appreciation for his military service and service to Rapides Parish; and does hereby extend sincere wishes that his family, friends, and loved ones find comfort in their shared memories of his beautiful life.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE