

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 92

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHASSION

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of Leotha "Leo" Bolden.

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 March 25, 2026, of Leotha "Leo" Bolden; and

WHEREAS, Leotha Bolden was born on August 11, 1950, in Indianola, Mississippi, to Gerdie White and Thomas Jefferson Bolden; he was the twin of his brother, Leon, and the ninth of twelve children; and

WHEREAS, Leo accepted Christ at an early age at Big Morning Star Church, and his faith was a foundational aspect of his life; he was a devoted and faithful member of Progressive Baptist Church, where he served with humility, dedication, and love for forty-five years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bolden was ordained a deacon under the leadership of Pastor Lloyd Joiner, Jr., and faithfully carried out this calling for more than thirty years; in January 2026, Pastor Chad E. Nora honored him with the distinguished title of deacon emeritus; he served as chairman of the church's deacon board and extended his service to the trustee board, Brotherhood Ministry, Sunday school, L.I.N.K.I.E.S. Ministry, counting team, and Prison Ministry; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bolden graduated from Gentry High School and earned a bachelor of science degree in political science from Mississippi Valley State University; he began his professional career at Modern Tool and Die in Indianola and later worked for a finance company; after moving to Lafayette, Louisiana, he worked for the Ford Motor Credit

Company; he then dedicated more than twenty years of service to Allstate Insurance Company, where he thrived as a top-selling agent, received multiple awards, and earned numerous trips in recognition of his remarkable success and commitment to excellence; and

WHEREAS, Leo married Azell Wells, whom he met while at Mississippi Valley State, on February 22, 1975; they shared a union rooted in deep love, enduring commitment, and abundant blessings and were blessed with three children: Tonya Lee, Tiffany Nicole, and Sedera Joy; and

WHEREAS, Leo treasured his family above all, and in his later years, his most precious moments were those spent in the company of his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild; he extended his love beyond his immediately family and was known as everyone's favorite uncle, a "bonus" dad, and grandfather to many; and

WHEREAS, Leo was passionate about music and was a proud member of the Mississippi Valley State Choir, which gave him a scholarship; he was a member of KJCB Gospel Harmonizers, PBC Laymen Choir, PBC Sanctuary Choir, and PBC Men of Purpose; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bolden was deeply devoted to his community; he was a philanthropist, faithful supporter of Northside High School Athletics, and board member of the Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc., of Lafayette; he also served as a mentor who generously poured wisdom, encouragement, and compassion into the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, Leo leaves to cherish his precious memory his devoted wife of fifty-one years, Azell Bolden; daughters, Tonya Bolden-Ball (Kirk) and Sedera Joubert (Travis); grandchildren, Trevor, Kennedi, Sunni Joy, and Maya; great-grandchild, Taelyn; siblings, Vashti, Ella Ruth, Howard, Larry, and Joyce; brothers-in-law, Lionel Edlam (Fatiha) and Wilbert Edlam; sister-in-law, Lesia Edlam; goddaughter, Chloe Williams (Kievan); and a host of nieces, nephews, church family, extended relatives, and dear friends; and

WHEREAS, Leotha "Leo" Bolden was admired and cherished for his gentle spirit, warm heart, and steadfast character; while he will be deeply missed, the legacy of his loving and welcoming spirit shall live on 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 Leotha

"Leo" Bolden 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