

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 120

BY REPRESENTATIVE FIRMENT

CONDOLENCES: Expresses the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of Clarence Durham, the last living LaSalle Parish World War II veteran

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of Clarence  
3 Durham, the last living LaSalle Parish World War II veteran.

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 18,  
6 2026, of Clarence Durham, the last living LaSalle Parish World War II veteran; and

7 WHEREAS, Clarence Durham was born on August 16, 1927, during the height of  
8 the Great Depression; he was the seventh-born child in his family, and he learned the value  
9 of hard work at an early age; he left school after fifth grade to support his family and carried  
10 his responsibilities with strength and humility; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Durham joined the military at the age of seventeen and served in  
12 the United States Merchant Marine; he was sent to Okinawa Island, where he and forty crew  
13 members were assigned to transport supplies, including ammunition, guns, and oil, to troops  
14 stationed and fighting in Japan and other parts of the world; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Durham married the love of his life, Beverly Hunt, after returning  
16 from the war; they shared sixty-two years of love and commitment to each other and raised  
17 three sons, Gerald, Robert, and Brian; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Durham spent forty years in the oil industry and worked on drilling  
19 rigs across many different towns and states; he lived in Abbeville, Louisiana, during this  
20 time and eventually settled in Jena, Louisiana, in 1971; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Durham was a faithful man and longtime member of East Jena  
2 Baptist Church; his life was grounded in his strong and steady faith, and he was known as  
3 a devoted follower of Christ; he was also a member of the Michael Dempsey Lodge, where  
4 he built numerous friendships and remained actively involved in the community; and

5           WHEREAS, Mr. Durham was most notably a loving husband, father, grandfather,  
6 and great-grandfather; he cherished his family and found immense joy in the company of his  
7 great-grandchildren; and

8           WHEREAS, Clarence Durham is survived by his brother, Dallie "D.L." Durham;  
9 sons, Gerald Durham (Kris), Robert Durham (Janie), and Brian Durham (Sheila);  
10 grandchildren, Stephen Durham, Robbie Durham (Danna), Katherine Smith (Caleb), Jeffrey  
11 Durham (Courtney), Hope Worthan (Jacob), Daisy Hooter (Jake), Faith Durham, Cyera  
12 Durham, and Donnie Durham; sixteen great-grandchildren; and numerous extended relatives  
13 and friends; he will be deeply missed, but the legacy of his love and service to his family,  
14 friends, community, and nation shall live on in the hearts and minds of those who were  
15 privileged to have known and loved him.

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 Clarence  
18 Durham, the last living LaSalle Parish World War II veteran; does hereby offer enduring  
19 appreciation and respect for Mr. Durham's outstanding military service; and does hereby  
20 extend sincere wishes that his family, friends, and loved ones find comfort in their shared  
21 memories of his inspiring life.

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#### 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)]

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HR 120 Original

2026 Regular Session

Firment

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