

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 165

BY REPRESENTATIVE JORDAN

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of Ray Helen Lawrence.

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 April 13, 2026, of Ray Helen Lawrence; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lawrence was the first African-American woman appointed and then elected to the Port Allen City Council; in 2013, she served as the city's mayor pro tempore; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lawrence served Port Allen for twenty years, and her service was a testament to the trust placed in her by the community; one of her proudest achievements was the establishment of the city's annual Juneteenth celebration; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lawrence extended her service beyond the council chambers; she led volunteers at Port Allen Cemetery, where residents mowed, picked up litter, pressure washed, and painted abandoned tombs; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her time in public office, Ms. Lawrence dedicated more than thirty years of service educating students across West Baton Rouge Parish; she was a science teacher who brought the curriculum to life and arranged field trips to the John C. Stennis Space Center in Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Ray Helen Lawrence made an indelible impact on the Port Allen community, and though she will be deeply missed, her legacy of love and service to the city, its residents, and her students shall live on in perpetuity in the hearts and minds of those who were privileged to have known and loved her.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Ray Helen Lawrence; does hereby extend enduring appreciation for her outstanding contributions to the city of Port Allen as public office holder, educator, and community servant; and does hereby extend sincere wishes that her family, friends, and loved ones find comfort in their shared memories of her beautiful life.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES