

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 107

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Joel Parker Sr.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens of Louisiana learned of the peaceful transition into eternal life of Joel Parker Sr. on April 17, 2026, at the age of eighty-nine; and

WHEREAS, Joel Parker Sr., was born on March 23, 1937, to Ezola Young in Washington, Louisiana, where he accepted Christ and was baptized at an early age, and served as a devoted member of Wiley United Methodist Church in Blanks, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Joel Parker Sr. was united in holy matrimony to Elnora Murray on January 21, 1960, with their union being blessed with four daughters and two sons and they shared thirty-five years of love and devotion until her passing on June 3, 1995; and

WHEREAS, he developed a passion for horses at a young age and became known as one of the finest cowboys, horse trainers, and rodeo event presenters with himself having competed in rodeos as a saddle bronc rider and bull rider; and

WHEREAS, despite the challenges of not being welcome as a black cowboy, Joel fought against the odds and became a Stock and Rodeo Producer in Louisiana and Mississippi, bringing black and white cowboys together; and

WHEREAS, for over fifty years Joel hosted rodeos where he was recognized as a strong inspiration to the many young people involved in his rodeos at the Lottie Stampede Arena, alongside his sons and rodeo partner, Eli Allen. Their Easter Sunday Rodeo became a cherished family tradition for many years; and

WHEREAS, Joel Parker Sr. was a faithful and hardworking man who worked for the Weinstein' Haas-Herschel Ranch; the JE Jumonville Ranch; the OD Kent Ranch; and later retired from the Alma Plantation in early 2000; and

WHEREAS, Joel leaves behind many cherished memories for his family and friends

who will remember the warmth of his love, the brilliance of his spirit, and his love for horses; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his children: Augustine Parker of Lottie, Cherry Bridgewater of St. Francisville, Joel Parker Jr. of Lottie, James Parker of Krotz Springs, Barbara (Dale) Howard of Glynn, and Norma (Ronald) Zachery of Lottie, all in Louisiana, and eleven grandchildren: Corey (Margaret) Parker, Brett Parker, Precious (Jessie) Tate, Madonna Parker, Dyamond Parker, Brittany Howard, Tre' Beckman, Courtney Parker, Jamie Williams, Dante' Williams, Jordan Philson, and J'Niyah Parker, and twenty-five great grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, he is also survived by his sister and brothers-in-law: Adrian Tezeno, Geraldine Andrus, Willie Murray, John Murray, Joel Murray Sr., Grace (Melvin) White, and Beverly (Tilden) Boudreaux, and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and dear friends; and

WHEREAS, Joel also shared a special bond with Freddie Nolan who he considered a son; Quincy Battley, a co-worker and dear friend; and Lavale Johnson, who was like a grandson to him; and

WHEREAS, Joel leaves behind extremely close cowboy friends who were considered family: Gene Richard, Errol Klein, Luke Decuir, Darrell Cezair, Willie King, Eugene King, Ray Dunbar, Pokey Johnson, Leniel Kimble, Mitch Wyble, JB Stelly, Dude Warts and countless others; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Elnora Parker; his mother and step-father, Ezola and Arthur Skinner; his father and mother-in-law, Arthur and Edmonia Murray; his brothers, Leroy (Elmer) Andrus Sr., Aaron Rideau, and Haywood Tezeno Sr.; his sister, Maybell Lavergne; his grandson, Casper Parker; and his great grandsons, Kyler Jace Mouton and Jax Kaide Albert; and a plethora of relatives and friends; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of its communities, and overall vitality of American society depends in great measure on people like Joel Parker Sr., who upon developing their talents and skills, pass their knowledge to the next generation of family members and friends.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Joel Parker Sr. and does extend enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that he leaves forever to his community, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Joel Parker Sr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE