

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 337

BY REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS

A RESOLUTION

To commend Green Whitaker, Sr., on the occasion of his one hundredth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is most fitting to recognize Green Whitaker, Sr., who has been a witness to history throughout his long life, and to commend the occasion of his one hundredth birthday; and

WHEREAS, Green Whitaker, Sr., was born on February 2, 1926, to Estella and Isaac Whitaker; he was the second youngest of nineteen children who were raised in the agricultural community of Holly in DeSoto Parish, Louisiana; his family lived on eighty acres of land, purchased by his father, where they cultivated nearly all of their food; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitaker's daughter, Anita "Nita" Whitaker, chronicled her father's upbringing in her award-winning book, *When Your Hand is in the Lion's Mouth: The Life and Wisdom of a Man named Green*; and

WHEREAS, the Whitaker family property was found to be a source of oil, and the family established a drilling rig and began pumping and selling oil; the discovery drew attention from oil drillers who unsuccessfully attempted to purchase the property; drillers tapped into the source of oil from an adjacent property, which led to salt contamination of the Whitaker property and marginalized the once-arable farmland; and

WHEREAS, the Whitaker family sold the property and pivoted to sharecropping on the Frierson Plantation; Isaac Whitaker, a man of great character, compassion, intelligence, generosity, and love for his family, maintained his family's resilience and instilled these qualities in his children; and

WHEREAS, Green emerged as a budding entrepreneur in his adulthood; he was married to the former Ola Mae White for twenty-eight years before her passing on November 21, 1977, and they raised four children: Green, Jr.; Alene; Kathy; and Anita; he established his family on 73rd Street in the Cedar Grove community in Shreveport, Louisiana, and supported many others in the community; and

WHEREAS, Green dedicated thirty-five years of service as a school bus operator for the Caddo Parish School Board, and during one period of his life, worked five part-time jobs; he established a takeout food business with his wife, served as the founder and co-owner of Good Samaritan Funeral Home for twenty-one years, and worked as a successful insurance salesman for more than sixty-eight years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitaker has served as a deacon for more than seventy-five years, and he is known in the Cedar Grove community and beyond as a man of great insight, kindness, and integrity; he is a lifelong singer and was a member and manager of a local gospel group named The Spiritual Jubilee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitaker volunteered as a foster grandparent in his late eighties and played the role of Jesus in a musical production in his nineties; he continues to serve as an incredible father and mentor to his children and others; and

WHEREAS, the last-living member of his large family, Mr. Whitaker remains a beloved and highly respected resident of the city of Shreveport, where he is treasured as a consistently positive role model, faith warrior, and source of fatherly inspiration; and

WHEREAS, Green Whitaker, Sr., is an inspiring Louisianian with a wealth of experience spanning countless disciplines; he is truly deserving of the highest recognition for his incredible contributions throughout his life.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Green Whitaker, Sr., on the occasion of his one hundredth birthday and does hereby extend sincere wishes that he remain prosperous and in good health as he joins the exclusive club of Louisiana centenarians.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES