

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 351

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

CONDOLENCES: Expresses the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of Russell M. Nelson, president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of Russell M.
3 Nelson, president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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 September 27,
6 2025, of Russell M. Nelson, president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; and

7 WHEREAS, Russell Marion Nelson, Sr., was born on September 9, 1924, in Salt
8 Lake City, Utah, to Marion C. Nelson and Edna Anderson Nelson; he was the second of four
9 children, grew up in a loving home, and was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of
10 Latter-day Saints at the age of sixteen; and

11 WHEREAS, as a youth, President Nelson had a natural love of science, and he
12 decided as a teenager that he would study medicine in college; he attended the University
13 of Utah, where he met Dantzel White; they married on August 31, 1945, in the Salt Lake
14 Temple and had ten children; and

15 WHEREAS, because President Nelson attended college during World War II, he
16 compressed his premedical degree into three years and began medical school at the
17 University of Utah in 1944; he graduated from medical school at the top of his class; and

18 WHEREAS, President Nelson served in the United States Naval Reserve from 1945
19 to 1947; he served his residency in surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and
20 at the University of Minnesota and received a Ph.D. in 1954; he received several honorary
21 degrees, including a doctor of science from Brigham Young University in 1970, a doctor of

1 medical science from Utah State University in 1989, and a doctor of humane letters from
2 Snow College in 1994; and

3 WHEREAS, President Nelson was an exceptional cardiothoracic surgeon, and he and
4 other medical professionals pioneered the development of the heart-lung machine; in 1955,
5 he became the first doctor in the state of Utah to perform open-heart surgery; and

6 WHEREAS, President Nelson authored numerous publications and chapters in
7 medical textbooks and lectured and visited professionally throughout the United States and
8 internationally; he received many awards and honors throughout his life, including the Heart
9 of Gold Award from the American Heart Association, the Golden Plate Award presented by
10 the American Academy of Achievement, and the Gandhi-King-Mandela Peace Prize; and

11 WHEREAS, President Nelson served as president of the Society for Vascular
12 Surgery, a director of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, chairman of the Council of
13 Cardiovascular Surgery for the American Heart Association, and president of the Utah State
14 Medical Association; and

15 WHEREAS, President Nelson developed close ties with China during his career and
16 was credited with introducing open-heart surgery to China in 1980; he was awarded
17 honorary professorships from three universities in the People's Republic of China; and

18 WHEREAS, President Nelson notably performed open-heart surgery on Spencer W.
19 Kimball, who went on to serve as the twelfth president of the Church; and

20 WHEREAS, during his career, President Nelson served in various church callings,
21 including stake president of the Bonneville Stake, general president of the Sunday School,
22 regional representative for Brigham Young University, and regional representative for the
23 Kearns Utah Region; and

24 WHEREAS, President Nelson accepted the call to serve as a member of the Quorum
25 of the Twelve Apostles and began serving on April 7, 1984; over nearly thirty-four years of
26 service in the Quorum, he visited one hundred thirty-four countries to share the gospel; and

27 WHEREAS, President Nelson served as the president of the Quorum of Twelve
28 Apostles from July 15, 2015, until he was called to lead the church; he was made the
29 seventeenth president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on January 14, 2018,
30 shortly after the passing of President Thomas S. Monson; and

1 WHEREAS, during his presidency, President Nelson announced two hundred
2 temples, which is the most of any leader of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints;
3 he also presided over a historic number of large-scale changes in the church and led its
4 members through the COVID-19 pandemic; and

5 WHEREAS, President Nelson is survived by his wife, Wendy Watson Nelson; eight
6 children; and more than two hundred grandchildren and great-grandchildren; he will be
7 deeply missed, but the legacy of his dedicated service to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter
8 Day Saints shall live on in the hearts and minds of those who were privileged to have known
9 him.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
11 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Russell
12 M. Nelson, president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; does hereby
13 recognize his enduring legacy as a pioneer in the field of cardiothoracic surgery and as a
14 leader in the Mormon community; and does hereby extend sincere wishes that his family,
15 friends, and loved ones find comfort in their shared memories of his beautiful life.

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)]

HR 351 Original

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