

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 351

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

A RESOLUTION

To express 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.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, President Nelson served in the United States Naval Reserve from 1945 to 1947; he served his residency in surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and at the University of Minnesota and received a Ph.D. in 1954; he received several honorary degrees, including a doctor of science from Brigham Young University in 1970, a doctor of medical science from Utah State University in 1989, and a doctor of humane letters from Snow College in 1994; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, President Nelson is survived by his wife, Wendy Watson Nelson; eight children; and more than two hundred grandchildren and great-grandchildren; he will be

deeply missed, but the legacy of his dedicated service to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints shall live on in the hearts and minds of those who were privileged to have known him.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES