

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 363

BY REPRESENTATIVE MURRAY

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of the Reverend James C. Carter, S.J., Ph.D., Jesuit priest, physicist, and the longest-serving president of Loyola University New Orleans.

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 May 22, 2026, of the Reverend James C. Carter, S.J., Ph.D.; and

WHEREAS, James C. Carter was born in 1927 in New York to Louisiana natives and was the oldest of three boys; as a teenager, he attended St. Stanislaus High School, a boarding school in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, he spent one year as a student at Loyola University New Orleans before entering the Jesuit novitiate at Grand Coteau in 1945; he earned a bachelor's degree in physics from Spring Hill College, a master's degree from Fordham University, and a doctorate in physics from the Catholic University of America; his academic studies were focused on nuclear physics, evolution, and religion; and

WHEREAS, after being ordained a Jesuit priest in 1958, Father Carter returned to Loyola in 1960 to teach physics; he was named provost and academic vice president in 1970 and became the fourteenth president of the university in 1974; and

WHEREAS, Father Carter dedicated more than six decades of service to Loyola as a student, professor, priest, administrator, and president; he served as president from 1974 to 1995 and guided the university through a period of significant academic growth and institutional advancement while remaining steadfastly committed to its Jesuit and Catholic identity; and

WHEREAS, after retiring from the presidency in 1995, Father Carter became Loyola's first chancellor; he then served as pastor and superior of the Jesuit community from 2001 to 2004 and later returned as a pastoral minister and part-time professor to continue his lifelong commitment to mentoring students; and

WHEREAS, Father Carter served the broader New Orleans community through leadership roles with the Metropolitan Area Committee and National Conference for Community and Justice; and

WHEREAS, Father Carter transitioned to a ministry of prayer in 2020; he first served at the St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Pavilion in Grand Coteau, Louisiana, and later at St. Ignatius Hall in Florissant, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Father Carter received numerous honors in recognition of his scholarship and service, including an honorary doctorate from Loyola University New Orleans in 1995; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend James C. Carter, S.J., Ph.D., will be deeply missed, but the legacy of his outstanding service to Loyola University New Orleans, the New Orleans community, and the Jesuit Order shall live on in perpetuity in the hearts and minds of those who were privileged enough to have known and loved him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of the Reverend James C. Carter, S.J., Ph.D., Jesuit priest, physicist, and the longest-serving president of Loyola University New Orleans; does hereby express enduring appreciation for his incredible dedication and service to Loyola and its students; and does hereby extend sincere wishes that his family, friends, former colleagues, and loved ones find comfort in their shared memories of his beautiful life.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES