

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 118

BY SENATOR DORSEY-COLOMB

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Dr. Issac Greggs, former director of the Southern University marching band.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Dr. Isaac "Doc" Greggs, long-time band director at Southern University in Baton Rouge.

WHEREAS, the great trumpet sounded on April 28, 2014, calling home the often imitated but never duplicated Dr. Isaac "Doc" Greggs, band director at Southern University in Baton Rouge for thirty-seven years; and

WHEREAS, Isaac Greggs was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, on January 2, 1929, the youngest of three children to Sarah and Isaac Greggs; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from Central Colored High School in Shreveport and, at fifteen, enrolled in Southern University A & M College in Baton Rouge where he received a B.S. degree in Music Education; and

WHEREAS, Issac Greggs also received an M.S. degree in Music Education from Vander Cook College in Chicago, Illinois and, in later years, received a Doctorate Degree in Music from the University of Peru; and

WHEREAS, he served in the United States Army where he played in the army band dedicated to morning reveille; and

WHEREAS, Doc Greggs created the Marching Band From Jaguarland at Southern

1 University and was chief composer of the unique flair and flavor exhibited by his musicians  
2 as they took on the moniker that best described them: The Human Jukebox; and

3 WHEREAS, Southern University's marching bands played at six Super Bowls, four  
4 Sugar Bowls, and three presidential inaugurations with Doc Greggs as director; and

5 WHEREAS, the influence of Doc Greggs extended beyond the band room and  
6 performance venues of the musicians who played for him; a significant number of his  
7 students have become band directors and musicians of note around the country, and the  
8 principles of dedication and commitment he instilled in his students shaped many of them  
9 into leaders in careers outside of music; and

10 WHEREAS, he was a charter member of Delta Upsilon Lambda and was a sixty-  
11 eight year Life Member of Beta Iota Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity,  
12 Incorporated; and

13 WHEREAS, the musical genius of Dr. Isaac "Doc" Greggs was formally recognized  
14 in 2013, when he was inducted into the Louisiana Black History Hall of Fame; and

15 WHEREAS, the music building on the Baton Rouge campus of Southern University,  
16 formerly known as Dubose Music Hall, recently was renamed the Isaac Greggs Band Hall  
17 in his honor; and

18 WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents Sarah and Isaac Greggs, brother  
19 Edmond, and sister Ellen Greggs; and

20 WHEREAS, Doc Greggs is survived by his loving wife of fifty-eight years, Rose  
21 Audrey Metoyer Greggs; devoted children: Audree Greggs Vaughn (Percy), Colette Greggs,  
22 Dedrick Jon Greggs (Carla), and Mark Eric Greggs (Tricia); grandchildren: Kirsten Vaughn  
23 Watson (Benjamin), Kory Greggs Vaughn MD, Jamal Greggs Russell, Kyle Greggs Russell,  
24 Daniel Isaac Greggs and Casey Danielle Greggs; great-grandchildren: Grace Makayla  
25 Watson, Naomi Love Watson, Isaiah Benjamin Watson and Judah Seth Watson: and a host  
26 of other relatives, family and friends; and

27 WHEREAS, over the years Doc Greggs received a plethora of awards and citations  
28 that inspired many young people to follow their dreams; and

29 WHEREAS, he communicated to his students the need to "be at the right time, at the  
30 right place, with the right equipment ready to concentrate", a mantra that applies beyond the

1 realm of music, and with his departure from this Earthly life to his Heavenly home, it is  
2 fitting to note that Dr. Isaac Greggs is now at the right place, making beautiful music for all  
3 eternity.

4       THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
5 does hereby express sincere condolences upon the passing of Dr. Isaac Greggs; does hereby  
6 extend deepest sympathies to family and friends as they mourn the absence of his presence;  
7 does hereby herald his legacy of music at Southern University and recognize his stylistic  
8 impact on bands around the country; and does hereby share in the prayers of the citizens of  
9 the state in comfort and fond remembrances of the sweet sounds that emanated from this  
10 musical icon.

11       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Dr.  
12 Issac Greggs' wife, Rose Greggs.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

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DIGEST

Dorsey-Colomb

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