

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 111

BY SENATOR GALLOT AND REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Irene Baldwin.

WHEREAS, Irene Baldwin, (known as "Sister"), was born July 13, 1924, to the late Floyd Rice Jr. and Annie Smith Rice, in Natchez, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, she accepted Christ and was baptized at an early age at Milford Baptist Church, attended Milford School, and graduated with honors as the valedictorian of her class; and

WHEREAS, Irene Baldwin was married to the late Reverend Shead Baldwin Sr. and born to this union were eight children, one of whom passed in July 1968; and

WHEREAS, Reverend and Mrs. Baldwin believed in educational opportunity and made sure each of their children received diplomas and later enrolled in a college of their choice; and

WHEREAS, Irene Baldwin later studied and received her certification in social work, through programs provided by the State Department of Health and Human Services and her work experience included the Belmont Hotel and social work through the Department of Human Resources in Natchez, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Baldwin moved her membership from Milford B.C. to King Solomon B. C. in the city of Natchez, where she served on the Usher Board and Deaconess Board, worked in the JMA ministry, the Missionary Society, and sponsored the Red Circle and the YWA for many years; and

WHEREAS, each year she worked and raised money to take youth on trips throughout the country as she believed that all children should be exposed to as much as possible; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Baldwin stood by her husband during his forty-six years as a pastor and was by his side during the Civil Rights Movement of the late fifties and sixties as she and her children endured harassment, verbal and sometimes physical abuse during his back-to-back terms as President of the NAACP during the sixties; and

WHEREAS, she was preceded in death by her parents Floyd and Annie Rice; her husband, Reverend Shead Baldwin Sr.; her son, Shead Baldwin Jr; son-in-law Prince Borten; daughter-in-law Patricia Lewis Baldwin; her brothers: Lee Oscar Rice, Reverend Floyd Rice III, George Woods Jr., Robert Woods, Monroe Woods, Roy Reese Rice, Mack Roy Rice, Clarence Pullins, Rev. Horace Pullins, Willie Pullins, and Freddie Pullins; her sisters: Nellie Rice Yancy, Ora Lee Batiste, and Annie Mae Pettis and her stepmother Pearline Rice; and

WHEREAS, Irene Baldwin leaves five daughters, Eloise Harris (Dave), Dr. Odessa Borten (Prince-deceased), Dr. Betty Cade (Robert), Martha Jean Fairley (Leonard), Dr. Annie Bass (B.J.); two sons, retired Lieutenant Roosevelt "Johnny" Baldwin (Patricia-deceased) and Dr. Jerry Baldwin (Juliet), and one adopted son, James Baldwin (Dora); twenty grandchildren, twenty-four great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, one aunt, Marie Rice, and godchildren Clarence Hayes, Johnny Lee Rice, and Anthony Dunbar; four brothers, Percy Rice (Jessie), Roosevelt Woods (Freddie Mae), Ernest Johnson (Ollie), and Flemon Pullins (Susie); six sisters, Dora Stanton, Eugenia Lewis, Velma McCray (Wilbert), Rosie Lee Woods, Edna Harper, and Florida Anthony (Randolph), and a host of relatives and friends; and

WHEREAS, Irene Baldwin was a kind and gentle soul and upon her death the world lost a unique individual who left an indelible mark on the lives of all those who had the honor of meeting her or the privilege of having known her; and

WHEREAS, her passing has left a void in her community and has created a genuine sense of profound sorrow for her friends and family and will be forever remembered.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere condolences to the family of Irene Baldwin on the occasion of her death.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES