

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 163

BY SENATOR GARY SMITH AND REPRESENTATIVES MILLER AND PRICE

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences on the passing of Dr. Rodney Roy Lafon.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of
Dr. Rodney R. Lafon.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens of Louisiana
learned of the death of Dr. Rodney R. Lafon, on Monday, May 12, 2014, at the age of sixty-
three; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lafon was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on May 13, 1950, and
resided in Luling, Louisiana, for the past thirty-four years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lafon dedicated himself to a lifelong pursuit of continuous
education, having graduated from Warren Easton High School; earning a bachelor's degree
in music education and master's degree in education from Loyola University; earning thirty
plus hours in education from Tulane University, Xavier University, the University of New
Orleans, Nicholls State University, and Loyola University; and completing his doctorate in
education from Nova University; and

WHEREAS, he retired from the St. Charles Parish public school system after almost
forty years of exemplary service; and

WHEREAS, the St. Charles Parish public school system has been at the forefront of
education and a leader among public schools in Louisiana since the mid 1970's thanks to the

1 efforts of Dr. Lafon; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Lafon began his career in public education in 1975, as a music
3 teacher working in five different schools across St. Charles Parish; and

4 WHEREAS, he ascended rapidly to the top of his profession, evidenced by the
5 amazing feat of becoming assistant principal at J.B. Martin Junior High school in 1979, a
6 mere four years after becoming a teacher; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Lafon was named principal, first at Allemands Elementary in 1982,
8 and then at Luling Elementary in 1990, before making his way into the central administrative
9 office in 1992, where he served as restructuring coordinator and assistant superintendent;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Lafon was selected for the position of superintendent of schools in
12 1995 where he served for eighteen years; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Lafon has received many honors for his leadership, including the
14 Louisiana Reading Association's Principal of the Year in 1989; and

15 WHEREAS, he was appointed by Governor Foster to serve on the Louisiana LEARN
16 Commission in 1996; and

17 WHEREAS, in 2000 the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools recognized
18 Dr. Lafon by presenting him with the Distinguished Educational Leadership Award; and

19 WHEREAS, he was named Louisiana's Superintendent of the Year in 2002; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Lafon served as the president of the Louisiana Association of
21 School Executives; and

22 WHEREAS, throughout his career in education, Dr. Lafon performed as a musician
23 performing with Luther Kent and Trick Bag, as well as performing with The Wise Guys and
24 The Jerry Leonard Society Orchestra; and

25 WHEREAS, he played at Jazz Fest for over thirty-five years as a member of Luther
26 Kent and Trick Bag; and

27 WHEREAS, Dr. Lafon is survived by his loving wife of thirty-nine years, Joyce; his
28 mother, Yvonne Dauenhauer Lafon; sister, Sharon Lafon Saia; brother in law, Keith Sai;
29 niece, Rhonda Sharon Thibaut; and

30 WHEREAS, Dr. Lafon considered all of the children in St. Charles Parish to be his

1 children and treated them as such; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Lafon's selfless commitment to the children of St. Charles Parish
3 has cemented his legacy in St. Charles Parish history.

4 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
5 express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Dr. Rodney R. Lafon, does
6 hereby recognize and record for posterity his accomplishments and contributions, and does
7 hereby extend enduring appreciation for the pride and honor that he will forever bring to his
8 family, friends, community, the parish of St. Charles, and the state of Louisiana

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
10 family of Dr. Rodney R. Lafon.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by James Benton.

DIGEST

Gary Smith

SCR No. 163

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