

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 163

BY SENATOR GARY SMITH AND REPRESENTATIVES MILLER AND PRICE

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 efforts of Dr. Lafon; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Dr. Lafon considered all of the children in St. Charles Parish to be his children and treated them as such; and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Dr. Rodney R. Lafon, does hereby recognize and record for posterity his accomplishments and contributions, and does

hereby extend enduring appreciation for the pride and honor that he will forever bring to his family, friends, community, the parish of St. Charles, and the state of Louisiana

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

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES