

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 211

BY REPRESENTATIVES JACKSON, BADON, BARROW, WESLEY BISHOP, BOUIE, BURRELL, COX, FRANKLIN, GAINES, HALL, HONORE, HUNTER, JAMES, JEFFERSON, TERRY LANDRY, NORTON, PIERRE, PRICE, SMITH, THIERRY, ALFRED WILLIAMS, PATRICK WILLIAMS, AND WOODRUFF AND SENATORS ADLEY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD, AND WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the legislature upon the passing of Southern University System president emeritus Dolores Margaret Richard Spikes.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana is deeply saddened to learn of the passing on June 1, 2015, of former Southern University System president Dolores Margaret Richard Spikes at the age of seventy-eight; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Margaret Richard Spikes earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1957 from Southern University and a master's degree in mathematics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and she made history in 1971 by becoming the first African American to earn a doctor of philosophy degree in mathematics from Louisiana State University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Spikes became the first female chancellor of a public university in Louisiana when she was named chancellor of both Southern University Baton Rouge and Southern University New Orleans in the late 1980s; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Spikes was appointed to the board of Harvard University's Institute of Educational Management in 1987, and in 1988, she became the first woman in the United States to head a university system when she was appointed president of Southern University and A&M College System; and

WHEREAS, the depth of contributions made by Dr. Spikes to Southern University Baton Rouge led to the naming of The Dolores Margaret Richard Spikes Honors College in her honor; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Spikes served as president of the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore in Princess Anne, Maryland, from 1997-2001; current university president, Juliette B. Bell, credits Dr. Spikes with laying the groundwork for the school's evolution into the twenty-first century historically black institution it has become; and

WHEREAS, during Dr. Spikes' tenure as president of the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore, the Hytche Athletics Center and the Student Services Center were built; and

WHEREAS, President Bill Clinton named Dr. Spikes to his board of advisors on historically black colleges and universities in 1994; two years later, she was named vice chair of the Kellogg Commission on the Future of State and Land-Grant Universities; and

WHEREAS, Southern University System acting chancellor Flandus McClinton, Jr., said upon learning of the death of Dr. Dolores Margaret Richard Spikes that she "was a shining star among the leaders of Southern University. She brought national acclaim to the university as she guided the Baton Rouge campus and the system through some of its most challenging times. She was beloved and respected by faculty, staff, students, and alumni during her tenure. She will be missed, but her legacy will live on. Southern University has truly lost a giant".

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend sincerest and most heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and former colleagues upon the passing of Dr. Dolores Margaret Richard Spikes; does hereby express deepest sympathies at the eternal departure of this trailblazer in higher education; and does hereby offer prayers and hopes for comfort to those who mourn her passing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Dr. Dolores Margaret Richard Spikes.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE