

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 22

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUSTIN MILLER

A RESOLUTION

To commend Horace Smith, Sr., on the momentous occasion of his eighty-ninth birthday.

WHEREAS, Horace Smith, Sr., was born on March 24, 1929, to Andrew Smith and Bertha Brown and is celebrating his eighty-ninth birthday on March 24, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith grew up in a family of ten children in Port Barre, Louisiana; he attended Old St. Landry School and Adult School in Opelousas; and

WHEREAS, in 1947, Mr. Smith married Leola Johnson and they enjoyed thirty-seven years of marital bliss before her passing; Mr. Smith later married Joyce Joseph; and

WHEREAS, Horace is the father of Lois Ghant, Reverend Horace Edward, Sr., Reverend Willie Lee, Sr., Murray Smith, Mary Franklin, Nettie Duscette, Horace Smith, Jr., Myrtle Manuel, Joy Joseph, and Rachel Guilbeau; and

WHEREAS, Horace has twenty-seven grandchildren, thirty-one great-grandchildren, four grandchildren-in-law, four daughters-in-law, and four sons-in-law; and

WHEREAS, Horace Smith, Sr., worked in many industries before retiring after fifteen years of state service; he laid sewer lines, worked in a lumber yard, drove propane trucks for two decades, owned his own landscaping business, and was one of only two black independent plumbers in the city; and

WHEREAS, Horace Smith, Sr., was the first African American in the Opelousas area to own and operate a full service gas station; Smitty and Sons Mobile was on the corner of East and Franklin Streets and provided oil changes, tire repair, car washes, fuel, and other auto services; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith is a figure of black history as one of the first black entrepreneurs in Opelousas; Horace established himself as a strong businessman and community figure despite racial segregation in Louisiana and throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Horace Smith, Sr., has been a member of several organizations, including Fox's Social Club, the Masonic Lodge, Money Wasters Social Club, and Zodiacs Bike Club; and

WHEREAS, he has been deacon and head secretary clerk of Greater Union Baptist Church, which was founded by his father, Andrew Smith; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith is known throughout his community as a mentor to youth and an avid domino player; the two coincide when he teaches children about the game of dominoes, while imparting priceless wisdom and helping them stay off the street.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Horace Smith, Sr., upon the celebrated and historic occasion of his eighty-ninth birthday because he exemplifies all that is good about Louisiana; does hereby congratulate Horace Smith, Sr., and his family and friends as they commemorate this most significant and unforgettable event; does hereby recognize and record for posterity the accomplishments of this rare man whose life now spans nearly a century; and does extend to him sincere and heartfelt acclaim as he celebrates this extraordinary milestone in his life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Horace Smith, Sr.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES