SLS 18RS-3107

ORIGINAL

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 152

BY SENATOR TARVER

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences on the death of Mamie Wallace, revered Shreveport civil rights activist.

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To express the sincere condolences upon the passing of a mainstay for social justice, Mamie
3	Love Wallace.
4	WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the passing of Mamie
5	Love Wallace, on Sunday, April 22, 2018, at age ninety-six, has been learned by the citizens
6	of Louisiana and the members of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana; and
7	WHEREAS, Mamie Love Wallace was born one of twelve children to Robert and
8	Lula Stewart in the Calvary community on Seven Pines Road near Benton, Louisiana;
9	Robert was a minister and Lula a schoolteacher and civil rights activist; and
10	WHEREAS, as soon as Mamie graduated from Bossier Parish Training School in
11	Benton she moved to Shreveport, worked as a cosmetologist, and joined the National
12	Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Southern Christian Leadership
13	Conference, and other organizations "designed to fight for the rights of all"; and
14	WHEREAS, Mamie was married to Clemmie Love for more than thirty years and,
15	after his death, married Jack Wallace who died eight years later; and
16	WHEREAS, she reared two nieces, Anne Stewart and Johnnie Belle Stewart, as well
17	as a godchild, Gwendolyn Barnes; and
18	WHEREAS, with a career as a cosmetologist Ms. Wallace and her friend Ann

1	Brewster opened and co-owned Modern Beauty Shop with Ms. Bernice Smith, and were
2	instrumental in changing the course of Black/African American's civil rights in Shreveport;
3	and
4	WHEREAS, Ms. Wallace was very upset about the fact that African Americans
5	could not dine at most restaurants, drink at certain water fountains, or try on clothing in
6	stores; and
7	WHEREAS, in 1958, she met Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Dr. Ralph Albernathy
8	in New Orleans, Louisiana, and the North Louisiana Civil Rights birth began as she
9	pioneered a cause she knew to be just and righteous, the concept that all human beings were
10	to be afforded equal protection before the law; and
11	WHEREAS, she picketed Stan's Record Shop, sat in the downtown bus station when
12	the "Freedom Riders" came through with food and drinks for them, and also participated in
13	a march down Milam Street to protest the 1963 church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama;
14	and
15	WHEREAS, Ms. Wallace played a major role in bringing the late Dr. Martin Luther
16	King Jr. to Shreveport in 1962, where he galvanized crowds and motivated the masses at
17	Galilee Baptist Church to take a stand against racial injustice and unfair practices in the city;
18	and
19	WHEREAS, she was affectionately known as the "Mother of the Civil Rights
20	Movement" in North Louisiana; her life dedication and motivation were seamlessly
21	demonstrated in her commitment to freedom and justice for all; she appeared on the C-SPAN
22	Network in 1997 and proudly attended the inauguration and witnessed the nation's first
23	African-American president being sworn into office, Barack Obama on January 2009, a
24	dream come true; and
25	WHEREAS, her visionary leadership united with other civil rights icons from this
26	community and across this state and nation with the birth of the North Louisiana Civil Rights
27	Coalition and the museum that honor the history of this part of the country is now a reality;
28	and
29	WHEREAS, Mamie Wallace was an extraordinary individual of profound moral

30 character and a graceful, elegant, and passionate woman who wanted to unite people of all

- races, who had a courageous and unwavering spirit, and who always acknowledged God to
 lead and guide her every step of the way; and
- WHEREAS, Mamie Wallace remains an inspirational figure for us all, her advocacy
 for "the cause" resinates within the hearts and minds of all of us who seek change for the
 disenfranchised; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Mamie Wallace shall be remembered for her legacy of activism that 7 gave the civil rights movement its momentum to defy long-standing segregation laws and 8 challenge the social, economic, and legal oppression of racial discrimination and for her 9 dedication to the betterment of all mankind.
- 10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana 11 does hereby express sincere condolences upon the death of Mamie Love Wallace, does 12 hereby record for posterity her highly significant contributions to the civil rights movement, 13 does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the way that her courage has inspired all those 14 who have come after her, and does hereby recognize that her memory shall live forever in 15 the annals of history and in the minds and hearts of the countless individuals whose lives she 16 touched with her singular legacy of courage and integrity.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
 Gwendolyn Barnes.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

SR 152 Original

DIGEST 2018 Regular Session

Tarver

Expresses condolences upon the death of Mamie Love Wallace, esteemed, respected, and well-known local civil rights activist.