

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 163

BY REPRESENTATIVES GAINES, BAGNERIS, BOUIE, BRASS, CARPENTER, GARY CARTER, COX, FRANKLIN, GLOVER, HALL, JIMMY HARRIS, HUNTER, JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, JORDAN, TERRY LANDRY, LYONS, MARCELLE, DUSTIN MILLER, NORTON, PIERRE, AND SMITH

COMMENDATIONS: Commends posthumously former state representative Ernest Nathan "Dutch" Morial

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend posthumously the former and late Louisiana legislator and mayor of New
3 Orleans, the Honorable Ernest Nathan "Dutch" Morial, for his purpose-filled life of
4 public service and dismantling racial barriers.

5 WHEREAS, affectionately known as "Dutch", Ernest Nathan Morial, the youngest
6 of six children was born on October 9, 1929, in New Orleans, Louisiana, to Leonie V. and
7 Walter Etienne Morial; Ernest Morial made his transition on December 24, 1989, at the age
8 of sixty; and

9 WHEREAS, Ernest "Dutch" Morial was a skillful attorney, political icon, and civil
10 rights activist known for achieving many firsts throughout his life; Mr. Morial was known
11 for being a person of resourcefulness, an advocate, and a trailblazer; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Morial was an accomplished politician who had a genuine heart and
13 concern for people and his community; his commitment to being a servant and leader and
14 his dedication to equality and social justice were hallmarks of his character; and

15 WHEREAS, Ernest Nathan "Dutch" Morial earned a bachelor of science in business
16 administration from Xavier University in 1951; he later went on to become the first African
17 American to receive a law degree from Louisiana State University Law School (now known
18 as the Paul M. Hebert Law Center) in 1954; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Morial served in the U.S. Army Intelligence Corps during the
2 Korean conflict from 1954 to 1956; and

3 WHEREAS, he married Sybil G. Hayden in 1955, and to this union, five children
4 were born: Julie, Marc, Jacques, Cheri, and Monique; and

5 WHEREAS, after serving in the military, Mr. Morial returned to his law practice in
6 New Orleans in 1956 to serve as general counsel to the Standard Life Insurance Company
7 until 1967; Mr. Morial served as assistant U.S. attorney for New Orleans from 1965 to 1967;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, as president of the New Orleans Chapter of the National Association
10 for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) from 1962 to 1965, Mr. Morial was at
11 the forefront of black protests and the dismantling of Jim Crow laws; he became an attorney
12 with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, serving on the national level; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Morial participated in the 1960 Dryades Street boycott and fought
14 for the desegregation of buses and streetcars and the integration of Louisiana State
15 University of New Orleans; he also broke many barriers for other African Americans by
16 filing successful suits to end desegregation practices in New Orleans and Louisiana
17 including in the city's public schools, recreation department, taxicabs, airport, and municipal
18 auditorium; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1967, Mr. Morial was elected to the Louisiana state legislature,
20 becoming the first African American elected since Reconstruction; he was also the first
21 African American assistant U.S. attorney in New Orleans, the first African American to
22 serve as juvenile court judge, and the first African American on the Fourth Circuit Court of
23 Appeals; and

24 WHEREAS, in 1977, Mr. Morial announced his candidacy for mayor of New
25 Orleans and sued the State Judicial Commission for the right to campaign while remaining
26 a judge; Mr. Morial won the general election by six thousand votes, becoming the first
27 African American mayor of New Orleans; and

28 WHEREAS, Mr. Morial gained national attention in his first term as mayor by
29 standing up to police and sanitation workers, which in turn led to a city-wide strike resulting
30 in the cancellation of the celebration of Mardi Gras in 1979; and

1 WHEREAS, in 1982, Mr. Morial was re-elected as mayor of New Orleans; two years
2 later, he was elected president of the United States Conference of Mayors; and

3 WHEREAS, the citizens of the city of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana will
4 always be indebted to Mr. Morial's commitment to making a difference in the lives of others;
5 Mr. Morial has inspired many through his selfless efforts; he serves as an example of what
6 one can do by committing one's life to Christ, family, and friends and working hard to
7 accomplish goals that are within God's will for this life.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
9 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend posthumously former state representative
10 and mayor of New Orleans, Ernest Nathan "Dutch" Morial; does hereby celebrate his legacy
11 and salute his purpose-filled life of dismantling racial barriers, building alliances, and
12 improving the quality of life for the people of the city of New Orleans and the state of
13 Louisiana.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
15 to the family of Ernest Nathan "Dutch" Morial.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 163 Original

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Gaines

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