

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 149

BY REPRESENTATIVES JORDAN, ABRAHAM, ABRAMSON, ADAMS, AMEDEE, ANDERS, BACALA, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, BISHOP, BOUIE, BOURRIAQUE, BRASS, CHAD BROWN, TERRY BROWN, CARMODY, CARPENTER, GARY CARTER, STEVE CARTER, COUSSAN, DAVIS, DUBUISSON, DWIGHT, EMERSON, GAINES, GISCLAIR, GUINN, JIMMY HARRIS, HENRY, HILFERTY, HILL, HODGES, HOLLIS, HORTON, HUVAL, IVEY, JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, MIKE JOHNSON, ROBERT JOHNSON, JONES, LACOMBE, TERRY LANDRY, LARVADAIN, LEBAS, LEGER, LYONS, MACK, MAGEE, MARCELLE, MARINO, MIGUEZ, DUSTIN MILLER, MOORE, MOSS, MUSCARELLO, NORTON, PEARSON, PIERRE, RICHARD, SCHEXNAYDER, SEABAUGH, SMITH, STAGNI, STOKES, TALBOT, TURNER, WHITE, WRIGHT, AND ZERINGUE

COMMENDATIONS: Posthumously commends John Burrell Garner for his contributions to the civil rights movement

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To posthumously commend John Burrell Garner for his contributions to the civil rights  
3 movement.

4 WHEREAS, on November 29, 1934, John Burrell Garner was born, one of four  
5 children, to Earnest, Sr., and Lillian Paul Garner; he entered into eternal rest on April 20,  
6 2012; and

7 WHEREAS, he was a civil rights activist, a veteran of the U.S. Army, and a former  
8 New Orleans police officer in the K-9 division with his trusted dog, Scout; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1960, Mr. Garner was a law student at Southern University, fulfilling  
10 a lifelong dream of studying law; and

11 WHEREAS, it was a tumultuous time throughout the United States, but especially  
12 in the South; nearly six years after the historic *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*  
13 decision, John courageously sacrificed his aspiration of a legal career in pursuit of equality  
14 for his brothers and sisters; he fearlessly joined the sit-in protest of racial segregation at  
15 Sitman's Drugstore in downtown Baton Rouge and was promptly arrested for doing so; he

1 was convicted of disturbing the peace and, soon thereafter, indefinitely suspended from law  
2 school; and

3 WHEREAS, on December 11, 1961, in a landmark case, *Garner v. Louisiana*, argued  
4 by Thurgood Marshall, the United States Supreme Court overturned his conviction and held  
5 that his rights to due process of law guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment of the United  
6 States Constitution were violated as a result of his arrest; and

7 WHEREAS, the courageous actions of John Burrell Garner contributed to the  
8 desegregation of lunch counters and the integration of other places of public accommodation  
9 in the state of Louisiana and throughout the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, his heroism and immeasurable role in the fight for civil rights helped  
11 to propel the country forward and served as a precursor to the passing of the Civil Rights Act  
12 of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and other such measures; and

13 WHEREAS, his bold actions on behalf of his fellow citizens, the state of Louisiana,  
14 and the United States are the true essence of a patriot and hero and should be celebrated as  
15 such.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
17 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby posthumously commend John Burrell Garner for his  
18 contributions to the civil rights movement and does hereby extend posthumous honor and  
19 recognition to Mr. Garner for his incomparable legacy which is marked by the deep pride  
20 and honor that he will forever bring to his family and friends, his community, and to the state  
21 of Louisiana.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Joan  
23 Garner.

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#### 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)]

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HR 149 Original

2019 Regular Session

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Posthumously commends John Burrell Garner for his contributions to the civil rights movement.