

2019 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 146

BY SENATOR MILKOVICH

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences to House of Representatives member, Barbara Carpenter, upon the recent death of her husband, Dana Carpenter.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death  
3 of Dana Carpenter, PhD, a Southern University administrator and husband of  
4 Louisiana House of Representatives member, Barbara West Carpenter, PhD.

5 WHEREAS, Dana Carpenter was born to O.C. and Mary Payton Carpenter, their  
6 sixth child, on January 8, 1945, in Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

7 WHEREAS, Dana Carpenter attended public schools in Natchitoches Parish where  
8 he was a scholarly leader; being diligent about his studies, he graduated from Central High  
9 School with highest honors and moved to further his studies at Grambling State University;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, at Grambling, Dana Carpenter excelled academically and graduated  
12 with a bachelor of science degree in speech, drama, and English education; and

13 WHEREAS, Dana Carpenter went on to study at Northwestern State University in  
14 his home town of Natchitoches, Louisiana, where he earned a master of arts degree in speech  
15 education with an emphasis on teaching, administration, and supervision; and

16 WHEREAS, Dana Carpenter's terminal degree came from Kansas State University  
17 in Manhattan, Kansas, where he earned a PhD in curriculum, instruction, and higher  
18 education; and

1           WHEREAS, Dana Carpenter came from a religious Christian family and he took his  
2 love of his wife and family to be a reflection of that faith and he was devoted to them,  
3 especially his wife, state representative Barbara West Carpenter, PhD and to their children,  
4 Erin and Patrick; and

5           WHEREAS, one of Dr. Carpenter's greatest strengths was in modeling a love for  
6 learning, and all who were fortunate enough to cross his path, particularly as his student,  
7 were much the better for knowing or being taught by him; and

8           WHEREAS, Dr. Carpenter's teaching career took him to the Calcasieu Parish School  
9 System where, in Lake Charles, Louisiana, he taught speech and drama to high school  
10 students whose lives were greatly influenced by his deep love for learning and his guiding  
11 and encouragement of their own educational experiences; and

12           WHEREAS, even beyond his classrooms, Dr. Carpenter garnered a reputation as a  
13 gifted and talented teacher, and Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, recruited  
14 him to join the university; and

15           WHEREAS, upon arriving at the campus in Baton Rouge, Dr. Carpenter immediately  
16 affiliated with the Richardson Chapel Church of God in Christ, seeking a home church to  
17 nurture his soul in his new surroundings; and

18           WHEREAS, at Southern University, Dr. Carpenter became a tenured full professor,  
19 no small achievement in the competitive world of academia; and

20           WHEREAS, in his career at Southern University, Dr. Carpenter held a variety of  
21 positions, including associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, associate vice chancellor  
22 for enrollment management, director of academic outreach programs, and Dean of  
23 University College, all essential positions for the academic reputation of the university; and

24           WHEREAS, Dana Carpenter, PhD, also served the profession of education in a  
25 variety of roles, including as an inaugural member of the City of Baker school board, to  
26 which he was elected in 1999, and this initial board oversaw the establishment of the system,  
27 separating from the East Baton Rouge Parish schools in 2003, and he went on to serve three  
28 terms as board president; and

29           WHEREAS, Dana Carpenter, PhD, was an immensely talented scholar, educator, and  
30 administrator who influenced the lives of hundreds of students in the Lake Charles schools,

