

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

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, on December 11, 1961, in a landmark case, *Garner v. Louisiana*, argued by Thurgood Marshall, the United States Supreme Court overturned his conviction and held

that his rights to due process of law guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution were violated as a result of his arrest; and

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES