

2019 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 265

BY SENATORS PETERSON, BISHOP, CARTER, DONAHUE, FANNIN, MORRELL,
RISER, TARVER AND WALSWORTH

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Jennifer Ashley Mitchell Carter.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of Jennifer Ashley Mitchell Carter upon her death.

WHEREAS, Jennifer Ashley Mitchell Carter, was born and reared in Shreveport, Louisiana, where she graduated from Caddo Parish Magnet High School in 2003; and

WHEREAS, she was the daughter of Jennifer Gail Walker Mitchell and James "JB" Mitchell; and

WHEREAS, her mother shared this beautiful soul with the rest of the world, and imparted in her a strong work ethic, her love for God and passion for people; and

WHEREAS, she was a devoted child of God, a loyal family member and friend; and

WHEREAS, she was a 2007 honor graduate of Louisiana State University College of Arts and Sciences where she earned a Bachelor Degree in Political Science; and

WHEREAS, she was a 2011 honor graduate of Southern University Nelson Mandela School of Public Policy where she earned a Master of Political Science; and

WHEREAS, she earned a Juris Doctor at Southern University Law Center in 2011; and

WHEREAS, she became a certified mediator by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service in 2009; and

1 WHEREAS, in the summer of 2010, she was a law clerk for Black Entertainment
2 Television Network and Viacom in the department of Business & Legal Affairs; and

3 WHEREAS, she held the position of law clerk/student intern for the United States
4 District Court, Middle District of Louisiana with Judge James J. Brady; the United States
5 Senate, Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship with Senator Mary L. Landrieu;
6 Office of the Governor, under the Assistant Chief of Staff; the Louisiana State Senate, Chief
7 of Staff Office with Jerry Guillot; and

8 WHEREAS, she served as a student mediator in the Southern University Law Center
9 Mediation Clinic, where she mediated several disputes including foreclosures,
10 landlord/tenant disputes, and consumer complaints; and

11 WHEREAS, she worked as a researcher in the office of Governor Kathleen Blanco,
12 a law clerk for the Louisiana State Senate; she was the youngest Executive Director of the
13 Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus and Executive Director of the Louisiana Legislative
14 Black Caucus Foundation; and

15 WHEREAS, Ashley served as the attorney for the Senate Committee on Senate and
16 Governmental Affairs and the Select Committee on Women And Children under the tutelage
17 of senior attorney, Tim Prather; and

18 WHEREAS, Ashley's drafting skills and knowledge of legislative law and procedure
19 exceeded her years of experience and made her an asset to the Louisiana Senate; was
20 considered a joy to work with by legislators, lobbyists, her supervisors, and her fellow staff
21 members; and

22 WHEREAS, she also served as support staff for the Louisiana Legislative Women's
23 Caucus; and

24 WHEREAS, it was important for Ashley to glean from those who paved the way for
25 her, and she was supported by a host of mentors which included but are not limited to
26 Yolanda Dixon, Cynthia Reed, Don Cravins Jr., Johnny Anderson, Edwin Murray (former
27 state Senator), Lydia P. Jackson (former state Senator), Markey Pierre, Mayor Sharon
28 Weston Broome, Alejandro Perkins, Representative Edward "Ted" James, Maxine Cormier,
29 who she affectionately call her second mom, and Senator Karen Carter Peterson; and

30 WHEREAS, during her time at the state capitol she was mentored by Senator Karen

1 Carter Peterson; and

2 WHEREAS, this relationship turned more into a familial bond/sisterhood; and

3 WHEREAS, Ashley was one of the co-captains of the group of supporters for
4 Senator Peterson affectionately known as "Team KCP"; and

5 WHEREAS, under the tutelage of Senator Peterson, Ashley continued to learn and
6 soar and became a guiding light at the Louisiana State Capitol; and

7 WHEREAS, she was a founding partner at the law firm of Pearson & Mitchell, LLC;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, her practice focused on intellectual property, contract negotiations,
10 family law, wills, successions, business and foundation formation; and

11 WHEREAS, she was a member of many legal organizations such as the American
12 Bar Association, Louisiana State Bar Association, Baton Rouge Bar Association, and Louis
13 A. Martinet Legal Society; and

14 WHEREAS, she was an Adjunct Professor of Advanced Legal Writing at Southern
15 University Law Center; and

16 WHEREAS, she was an Instructor at Baton Rouge Community College in 2015,
17 where she taught several classes including Economic Development and Workforce
18 Solutions; and

19 WHEREAS, Ashley became the Director of Government Affairs with the University
20 of Louisiana System in 2018, under the direction of Dr. Jim Henderson; and

21 WHEREAS, she was heavily involved in her community and had a heart for the
22 people; and

23 WHEREAS, no matter how successful she became, she never forgot where she came
24 from as evidenced by her yearly trips back home to Shreveport to give out turkeys to the
25 needy during the holiday season; and

26 WHEREAS, she was involved in a wide array of ventures and organization such as
27 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Walker's Legacy; Junior League of Greater Baton Rouge
28 and other endeavors in business, church, and community; and

29 WHEREAS, as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., she participated in the
30 constructive development of her fellow members and to public service through the sorority's

1 many initiatives; and

2 WHEREAS, she was a member of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church of
3 Shreveport under the Spiritual Leadership of Dr. Theron Jackson, Pastor, and while in Baton
4 Rouge, she served as a member of New Gideon Baptist Church under the Spiritual leadership
5 of Pastor Brandon D. Collins, where she served with her sisters in Christ as the Director of
6 the Liturgical Dance Ministry; and

7 WHEREAS, she married the love of her life, Charles Carter Jr., on June 28, 2014;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, she gained a new family in the form of Carter's parents, Betty and
10 Charles Carter Sr.; and

11 WHEREAS, during this union they enjoyed traveling, hosting friends and family at
12 their home, sharing genuine love and the building of a bright future together as evidenced
13 by their many entrepreneurial endeavors, which included real estate and Carter Sweet Treats;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, also during this union, Ashley heavily supported Carter and his
16 childhood friends with their nonprofit organization "Reaching Our Dreams Foundation"; and

17 WHEREAS, Ashley played an intricate role in many of the community outreach
18 efforts of "Reaching Our Dreams Foundation" such as their annual Thanksgiving turkey
19 giveaway in both Baton Rouge and her hometown of Shreveport; their annual back to school
20 initiative which gave school supplies to underprivileged students, hosting giveaways, and
21 adopting less fortunate families during the Christmas holiday season; and

22 WHEREAS, Ashley went to be with the Lord on May 27, 2019; and

23 WHEREAS, the pain of her passing is amplified by the fact that she was with child;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, she had a heart of gold and a smile that was a glowing sunrise that
26 uplifted everyone she encountered; and

27 WHEREAS, her favorite greeting was "Hello Sunshine" which was reflective of the
28 energy that emitted from her at all times; and

29 WHEREAS, Mencius said "Friends are the siblings God never gave us"; and

30 WHEREAS, Ashley was a friend to many people, who ending up accepting her as

1 family; and

2 WHEREAS, it was inevitable when you encountered her infectious aura that you
3 knew you had encountered an amazing individual with a beautiful heart; and

4 WHEREAS, she had a passion for Louisiana, from the food to the culture and most
5 importantly, the people; and

6 WHEREAS, she was a wondrous combination of perseverance, self-belief, strength,
7 curiosity, humanity and compassion; and

8 WHEREAS, her family has established a scholarship fund to commemorate her life,
9 work and service and this scholarship will be awarded to law students who share and uphold
10 the same values and possess the same qualities that Ashley possessed; and

11 WHEREAS, grief shall fill the many hearts that have encountered this amazing spirit;
12 solace must be found in the fact that she was a believer and accepted the Lord in her life at
13 an early age; and

14 WHEREAS, Ashley is survived by her parents, siblings, and her husband, Charles
15 Carter.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
17 does hereby extend its deepest and most profound condolences to the family of Jennifer
18 Ashley Mitchell Carter for their immeasurable loss and wish to recognize her for her service
19 to the community, the state of Louisiana, and her fellow man.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
21 family of Jennifer Ashley Mitchell Carter.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by James Benton.

SR 265 Original

DIGEST
2019 Regular Session

Peterson

Expresses condolences upon the death of Jennifer Ashley Mitchell Carter.