

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 11

BY REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Pinkie C. Wilkerson Life Development Center and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., for remembering former state representative Pinkie Carolyn Wilkerson on the twentieth anniversary of her tragic death.

WHEREAS, Pinkie Wilkerson is remembered as a truly committed public servant to the citizens of Bienville, Claiborne, Lincoln, and Union parishes; and

WHEREAS, Pinkie graduated from Grambling State University Lab High School, and she earned a bachelor of arts degree from Grambling State University and a master of arts degree from Ohio University; she was a member of Moot Court and Law Review at Southern University Law Center; in May 1979, she received her juris doctorate degree, finishing at the top of her graduating class; she also studied at Tulane University School of Law and earned an L.L.M.; and

WHEREAS, Pinkie was admitted to the bar in both Louisiana and New York, and she was also admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court and the United States Tax Court; and

WHEREAS, prior to her election into the House of Representatives, she served as assistant district attorney in the Third Judicial District for Lincoln and Union parishes and as an assistant attorney general for the state of Louisiana; she also practiced computer law with Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith at the World Financial Center and was a tax attorney with the Internal Revenue Service in Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wilkerson was also a very accomplished academic; she served as an assistant professor of law at Southern University School of Law, an assistant professor of American history at both Grambling State University and the University of Maryland, a teacher of American history and American government in the Sacramento City Unified

School District, and an adjunct professor of business law at Louisiana Tech University and Grambling State University; and

WHEREAS, she combined her passion for law with her commitment to women's causes by serving as the president of the Ruston-Grambling League of Women Voters and the Women Lawyers Division of the National Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, Pinkie began her tenure as a state representative in 1992, and her attentiveness to the will of her constituents merited her reelection to office two additional times; during her service to the legislature, Representative Wilkerson seized every opportunity to serve her district and the citizens of Louisiana in the most honorable and effective manner; and

WHEREAS, Representative Wilkerson served as vice chair of the House Committee on Health and Welfare and on the House Judiciary and Civil Law and Procedure committees; she also served on the House committees on Insurance, Ways and Means, Transportation, Highways, and Public Works, and on the Joint Legislative Capital Outlay Committee; and

WHEREAS, as a state representative, she fully embraced every opportunity to champion the rights of the citizens of Louisiana, and her efforts on behalf of the elderly, foster children, abused and neglected children, and victims of domestic violence demonstrated her fervent commitment to her ideals; and

WHEREAS, Representative Wilkerson served with honor and distinction as the vice chair of the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus from 1998 until 2000, and she was an active participant in projects that addressed the issues affecting the women of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, on August 1, 2000, Representative Wilkerson was killed in a tragic car accident in Bossier City; in honor of her relentless commitment to her work, Pinkie's law office in Grambling, Louisiana, was made the headquarters of the Pinkie C. Wilkerson Life Development Center, which also houses her sorority, the Grambling Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, former state representative Pinkie Carolyn Wilkerson will forever remain a respected member of the Legislature of Louisiana, and she will always be remembered for her relentless pursuit of adequate health care and civil rights for the women of Louisiana, for her compassion, for her generosity, and for the fierce determination with which she fought to realize her cause for the benefit of all Louisianians.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Pinkie C. Wilkerson Life Development Center and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., for remembering former state representative Pinkie Carolyn Wilkerson on the twentieth anniversary of her tragic death; does hereby posthumously recognize former Representative Wilkerson for her years of dedicated service to the state legislature; does hereby recognize Representative Wilkerson's excellence in carrying out her duties as a state representative; and does hereby remember her contributions to the people of Louisiana and her many achievements during her time with the legislature.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES