

2020 First Extraordinary Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY SENATOR TARVER

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Dr. Charley M. Lester Jr. and posthumously recognizes his many years of dedicated service.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the
3 death of Dr. Charley M. Lester Jr. and to posthumously recognize his many years of
4 dedicated service to the citizens of Shreveport, Caddo Parish, the state of Louisiana,
5 and the United States of America.

6 WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the Senate of the
7 Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing of Dr. Charley M. Lester Jr. on June 20,
8 2020, at age eighty-six; and

9 WHEREAS, he was born on February 28, 1934, in Scottsville, Texas, to Charley and
10 Edna Lester, graduated from Pemberton High School at the age of fifteen, and entered Wiley
11 College where he obtained his undergraduate degree, and while there pledged Omega Psi Phi
12 fraternity; and

13 WHEREAS, at the age of eighteen, he pursued his graduate degree from Howard
14 University in Washington, D.C., but prior to obtaining the degree, he transferred to Meharry
15 Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, one of only three historically black medical
16 schools in the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, at Meharry, while pursuing the field of dentistry, he was elected class
18 president each of his four years there; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Lester graduated from Meharry with a Doctor of Dental Surgery
2 degree in 1960 and then joined the United States Air Force; and

3 WHEREAS, while in the military, he did a tour of three years in England where he
4 operated his own dental clinic; and

5 WHEREAS, after completing his tour of duty, Dr. Lester returned home to
6 Shreveport, Louisiana, and married his sweetheart whom he met while attending Meharry,
7 and they were married for fifty-four years; and

8 WHEREAS, out of this union were born two daughters, Kai, the oldest, who is a
9 podiatrist in Houston, Texas, and Charmel who is a lab analyst in Shreveport; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Lester became a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church in
11 1968 and was active in the chancel choir and also the United Methodist Men; and

12 WHEREAS, with the support of his father, he opened his own dental practice in the
13 Mooretown community where he also chose to build a home and raise his family; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1971, Dr. Lester ventured into elective public office as one of the first
15 African Americans to serve on the Caddo Parish Police Jury, which is now the Caddo Parish
16 Commission; he was also a board member of the Community Action Agency, active in the
17 Civil Rights Movement, and a member of the Home Mortgage Authority; and

18 WHEREAS, he was the first African American appointed to serve as a member of
19 the Louisiana State Board of Dental Examiners; and

20 WHEREAS, he was an active member in the State and National Black Dental
21 associations and the American Dental Association for over fifty years, and he received the
22 Louisiana Dental Association Distinguished Service Award in 2005; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. Lester retired from dentistry in 2012 after fifty years of service to
24 the community; and

25 WHEREAS, he continued to give back to the community by serving in church
26 organizations and also as a member of the New Dimensions Chorale Society; and

27 WHEREAS, during his life, Dr. Charley M. Lester Jr. brought honor and distinction
28 upon himself, his family, his community, and his country.

29 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
30 does hereby express sincere condolences upon the death of Dr. Charley M. Lester Jr.,

1 posthumously recognize and record for posterity his distinguished career of professional
2 excellence, commitment of service to his community, caring and loving spirit, and
3 unyielding advocacy efforts for justice and equality, and extend enduring appreciation for
4 the tremendous pride and honor he will forever bring to Shreveport, Caddo Parish, the state
5 of Louisiana, and the United States of America.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
7 Calvin Ben Lester.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

DIGEST

SR 34 Original

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