2020 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 56

BY REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences on the death of Dr. Charley M. Lester, Jr.

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Dr. Charley
3	M. Lester, Jr.
4	WHEREAS, Dr. Charley M. Lester, Jr., was born on February 28, 1934, in
5	Scottsville, Texas, to Charley Sr. and Edna Lester; and
6	WHEREAS, Charley was raised in a loving household that valued education, as his
7	mother was a school teacher; by the time he entered school, at the age of four, he knew how
8	to count and could recite the alphabet; and
9	WHEREAS, Charley graduated from Pemberton High School at fifteen years old and
10	received his bachelor's degree from Wiley College three years later; while at Wiley College,
11	he was a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; he began graduate studies at Howard
12	University but decided to pursue a career in dentistry and transferred to Meharry Medical
13	College; while at Meharry, he was elected class president and held that position throughout
14	his time there; Dr. Lester graduated from Meharry with a doctor of dental surgery degree in
15	1960; and
16	WHEREAS, Dr. Lester joined the United States Air Force; he completed a three-year
17	tour in England where he ran his own dental clinic; after returning from England, he
18	established a dental practice in Shreveport and married his sweetheart from Meharry, Julie
19	Boston; out of their union came two beautiful daughters, Kai and Charmel; and
20	WHEREAS, Dr. Lester opened his dental clinic in the Mooretown community where
21	he also chose to raise his family; he always made sure to give back to his community; and

HLS 201ES-507

1	WHEREAS, Dr. Lester entered politics in 1971 and was one of the first African
2	Americans to serve on the governing authority of Caddo Parish; he was also a board member
3	of the Community Action Agency, active in the Civil Rights movement, and a member of
4	the Home Mortgage Authority; and
5	WHEREAS, in his dental career, Dr. Lester was the first African American to serve
6	as a member of the Louisiana State Board of Dental Examiners, named to that position by
7	then Governor Edwin Edwards; he was also an active member of the state and national black
8	dental associations and the American Dental Association for over fifty years; he also
9	received the Louisiana Dental Association Distinguished Service Award in 2005; and
10	WHEREAS, Dr. Lester retired from dentistry in 2012, after fifty years of service to
11	his field; he continued to give back to his alma maters and his community even after his
12	retirement, and he was an active member of St. Paul United Methodist Church; and
13	WHEREAS, for his many outstanding academic and career accomplishments,
14	Dr. Lester is most deserving of recognition, and he will be truly missed.
15	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
16	Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of
17	Dr. Charley M. Lester, Jr.; does hereby recognize Dr. Lester's amazing achievements in his
18	academic life and in the field of dentistry; and does hereby extend sincere hopes and wishes
19	that his family find comfort during this difficult time.
20	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
21	family of Dr. Charley M. Lester, Jr.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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