

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 15

BY SENATOR FOIL

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Rt. Reverend James Malone Coleman.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens of Louisiana learned of the death of Rt. Reverend James Malone Coleman on May 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, James Malone Coleman was born on August 26, 1929, to Frederick L. Coleman Sr. and Mary Carter Hughes Coleman, in Memphis, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, he attended Christian Brothers High School and graduated in 1947; and

WHEREAS, after serving in the United States Army, he continued his education at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and later obtained a Master of Divinity at The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Coleman also received a Doctorate of Ministry from the Seminary of the Southwest at Wake Forest University, and after his ordination in 1957, he served as priest in the towns of Lebanon, Gallatin, Johnson City, and Memphis, Tennessee, as well as Martinsville, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, he was called to serve as rector of St. James Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he remained until 1989; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, while Bishop Coleman was serving as rector of St. James Episcopal Church in Memphis, he was elected Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of West Tennessee and remained as its Bishop from 1994 until his retirement in 2001; and

WHEREAS, he returned to Baton Rouge and to St. James Episcopal Church in 2005, serving as Bishop-in-Residence until 2020; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Coleman strived to deepen the spiritual life of the faithful and called on his congregations to foster transformation and new life, and urged them to be attentive to the needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, a kind and devout man of humble spirit, deep integrity, wry humor, and enormous strength and intelligence, he formed many treasured relationships with fellow clergy, staff, and parishioners in each place he served, forging bonds that lasted a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Coleman loved the outdoors and he held close the memories of daring, work-intensive adventure as a smokejumper for the United States Forestry Service in the Pacific Northwest, where during college summers he parachuted into remote mountain areas to extinguish forest fires usually caused by lightning during thunderstorms; and

WHEREAS, he hiked the Appalachian Trail with his sons and friends every year for more than forty years; he loved nature and found it in abundance along the Trail with its wildflowers, trees, animals, and other hikers; and

WHEREAS, one of Bishop Coleman's crowning outdoor achievements was a trek to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Africa in 1989; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife of fifteen years, Douglass Stewart Coleman; three sons, Jamie Coleman, Carter Coleman, and Jonathan Coleman; and three granddaughters, Kelly Keffer, Cleo Coleman, and Ondine Coleman; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Coleman was preceded in death by his first wife of forty-five years, Mary Carter Hughes Coleman; his parents, Frederick L. Coleman Sr. and Doris Cloar Jacobs; and his brother, Frederick L Coleman Jr.; and

WHEREAS, the death of Rt. Reverend James Malone Coleman has left a substantial void in his community and a sense of loss in the citizens whose lives he touched, and his memory shall live forever in the minds and hearts of all those who knew and loved this remarkable gentleman.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Rt. Reverend James Malone Coleman, and does hereby commend and record for posterity his outstanding achievements, and extend enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that he will forever bring to his community, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of America.

SR NO. 15

ENROLLED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Rt. Reverend James Malone Coleman.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE