SLS 21RS-1542

ORIGINAL

2021 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 51

BY SENATOR FOIL

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of the Rt. Reverend Charles Edwards Jenkins III, the tenth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of the
3	Rt. Reverend Charles Edwards Jenkins III, the tenth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese
4	of Louisiana.
5	WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and sorrow that the citizens of Louisiana learned
6	that Rt. Reverend Charles E. Jenkins III, at the age of sixty-nine, while surrounded by his
7	family, completed his life's journey and peacefully entered into eternal rest with our Lord
8	on April 9, 2021; and
9	WHEREAS, Reverend Jenkins was born on July 27, 1951, in the cotton country of
10	Shreveport, Louisiana, to Don Green and Helen Huckabay Jenkins, and grew up in
11	Mansfield, Louisiana; and
12	WHEREAS, he graduated from Louisiana Tech University in 1973 and Nashotah
13	House Theological Seminary in 1976; and
14	WHEREAS, in 1975, he was married to Louise Hazel Jenkins and their union was
15	blessed with two sons, Edward and Benjamin; and
16	WHEREAS, Reverend Jenkins was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop James
17	Brown in 1977 and thereafter served briefly as an assistant chaplain at Louisiana State
18	University and in various parishes in Louisiana and Texas; and

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1	WHEREAS, while rector of St. Luke's in Baton Rouge, he was elected bishop
2	coadjutor of Louisiana in 1997, consecrated bishop of the Diocese of Louisiana on
3	January 31, 1998, and invested as the tenth bishop of Louisiana on March 28, 1998; and
4	WHEREAS, Reverend Jenkins was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree
5	from Nashotah House in 1992, an honorary doctorate from the University of the South,
6	Sewanee, Tennessee in 1999, and in his continuing educational pursuits, he studied for five
7	years with Rabbi Edwin Friedman; and
8	WHEREAS, while safely evacuated in Baton Rouge during Hurricane Katrina,
9	Rt. Reverend Charles Jenkins said the televised images of thousands of people suffering in
10	New Orleans compelled him to retool the work of his 19,000 members of the Diocese of
11	Louisiana to remedy the social injustices exposed by the storm; and
12	WHEREAS, as national relief money poured in, Rt. Reverend Charles Jenkins
13	launched ministries, including Jericho Road, that put the Louisiana diocese into new work
14	such as building houses, running medical clinics, and forging new relationships with
15	African American neighborhoods and other ministries; and
16	WHEREAS, Rt. Reverend Charles Jenkins said he wanted to "institutionalize in his
17	church" the reckless and inspiring generosity that prevailed in the first months after the
18	storm, having the programs become a part of the diocese's identity as Christians and not be
19	merely an aberration; and
20	WHEREAS, together with Episcopal Relief and Development, an international relief
21	and development agency of the Episcopal Church, he formed the diocesan Office of Disaster
22	Response in order to coordinate the church's charitable response to the disaster as well as
23	working with interfaith agencies; and
24	WHEREAS, through the partnerships he formed, Reverend Jenkins became involved
25	in long-range community rebuilding plans, including Jericho Road, a ministry he started to
26	help rebuild homes in New Orleans; and
27	WHEREAS, upon his retirement, he moved to St. Francisville where he served as
28	Bishop in Residence at Grace Church and often presided over services at St. John's Laurel
29	Hill, the Chapel of Grace Church; and
30	WHEREAS, while living in St. Francisville, he fished frequently and puttered about

1	outdoors; and
2	WHEREAS, many viewed Reverend Jenkins as a champion of the oppressed, a
3	crusader for justice, a seeker of the Beloved Community, and a child of the Living God; and
4	WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Louise Hazel Jenkins; two sons, Benjamin
5	and Edward (Beth); two granddaughters, Eleanor and Claire and a host of nieces, nephews,
6	and cousins; and
7	WHEREAS, despite the fact that the death of Rt. Reverend Charles E. Jenkins III will
8	leave a substantial sense of loss in the lives of the individuals he touched, he shall always
9	be remembered most for his wit and humor and for his leadership and community rebuilding
10	efforts after hurricanes Katrina and Rita which lead him to address the systemic racial and
11	economic inequities in New Orleans by building bridges and serving with other
12	communities.
13	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
14	express sincere condolences upon the death of Rt. Reverend Charles Edward Jenkins III.
15	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his
16	wife, Louise Hazel Jenkins.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Ann S. Brown.

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