

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 79

BY SENATOR FIELDS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Vernon Johnnie Jordan Sr.

WHEREAS, Vernon Johnnie Jordan Sr. was born on November 23, 1933, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he was residing at the time of his death on May 21, 2021, at the age of eighty-seven; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Johnnie Jordan Sr. was born to the union of Rachael Riley and Johnnie Jordan in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Johnnie Jordan Sr. and his wife, Edna Henley Jordan, are the proud parents of five children, Charlotta Jordan Carter, Desimonae Jordan Anderson, Vernon Jordan II, Christopher Jordan, and DeShawn Jordan; and

WHEREAS, as a native of Baton Rouge, Vernon was raised in the Scotlandville community where he attended Southern University Demonstration School; and

WHEREAS, upon his graduation from Southern University Demonstration School in 1951, Vernon enlisted in the United States Air Force and served in the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, receiving a multitude of recommendations from his superior officers during his tour of duty in the United States Air Force and the Louisiana National Guard, Vernon enrolled in Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College where he studied until March 1960; and

WHEREAS, as a young vibrant political science major and human rights activist, paired with John Garner, a lifelong friend and law student, Vernon participated in human rights demonstrations and sit-ins in the Baton Rouge community that resulting in his expulsion from Southern University and A&M College as a member of the group of students that became known as the "SU Sixteen"; and

WHEREAS, Vernon and the other members of the "SU Sixteen", by order of the governor, were not allowed to attend college in the state of Louisiana as a direct result of their activism; and

WHEREAS, Vernon graduated in 1964 with a political science degree from the University of Arkansas at Pine Buff; and

WHEREAS, forty years later, in 2004, Vernon and the "SU Sixteen" received honorary degrees from Southern University and A&M College.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Vernon Johnnie Jordan Sr., recognizes his outstanding service, records for posterity his many accomplishments for the good of the people, and extends enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that he will forever bring to the Scotlandville community, parish of East Baton Rouge, state of Louisiana, and the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Vernon Johnnie Jordan Sr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES