

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 82

BY SENATORS PRICE, BARROW AND FIELDS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Ernest C. Stephens, AFL-CIO Political Director.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the passing of Ernest Stephens; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Stephens was born and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, educated in the East Baton Rouge School System, graduated from Capitol High School, and attended Southern University; and

WHEREAS, he became a board member of Construction and General Laborers Local 1177 in January 1976, worked on a number of construction and maintenance jobs, and held positions from general laborer to shift supervisor and job steward; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Stephens was appointed to the Executive Board of Laborers Local 1177 in 1992 after serving as an auditor for four years; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, he was appointed Union President and served until 2000 when he became Business Manager of Construction & General Laborers Local 1177 until 2008; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Ernest Stephens began working for the Louisiana AFL-CIO where he served as Assistant to the President and Statewide Political Director; and

WHEREAS, he worked to coordinate relief efforts between the Unions & American Red Cross during numerous Louisiana disasters; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Stephens was married to Irma Stephens for twenty-five years and they had four children and seven grandchildren and he attended the Greater New Guide Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, he served as a board member of the Baton Rouge Workforce Investment Board, Capital Area United Way, and Louisiana A. Philip Randolph Institute and also served as treasurer of the Baton Rouge Building & Construction Trades Council, as well as being a former chairman of the East Baton Rouge Council on Aging and former President of the Greater Baton Rouge AFL-CIO; and

WHEREAS, he dedicated his life to improving the lives of hard-working men and women across Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Stephens was a man of great integrity, well-liked, known for being generous with his kindness and wisdom, and a fierce advocate for social and economic justice; and

WHEREAS, he was a forever friend to those needing a mentor, greeting everyone he met with love and respect; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend in great measure upon people like Ernest Stephens, who devote and dedicate their life and time to serving others and he will be long remembered by all of those whose lives have been made better because of his care and commitment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere condolences upon the death of Ernest C. Stephens and extends enduring appreciation for his outstanding service and many accomplishments for the good of the people of the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his widow, Irma Stephens.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES