

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 134

BY REPRESENTATIVES BROWN AND BRASS

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of the Reverend  
Lionel Johnson, Sr.

WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of  
Representatives has learned of the death of the Reverend Lionel Johnson, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Lionel Johnson, Sr., was a native and lifelong resident of  
Iberville, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson received a bachelor's degree in English from  
Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College in Baton Rouge; he received  
a master's degree in curriculum development from the State University of New York at  
Albany, and he was an alumnus of the Law Enforcement Basic Training Academy at  
Louisiana State University; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson taught English for eight years in East Feliciana  
Parish; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Reverend Johnson was appointed by Governor Edwin Edwards  
to the board of supervisors of the newly formed Southern University system, which at the  
time included Southern University at Baton Rouge, Southern University at New Orleans, and  
Southern University at Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson served ten years as chairman of the board of  
supervisors and he played a key role in the formation of the Southern University System into  
the first system of historically black colleges and universities in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson was appointed by Governor Edwin Edwards to serve  
as a member of the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; and

WHEREAS, former governors Edwin Edwards and Dave Treen both appointed Reverend Johnson to serve as a member on the Governor's Special Commission on Educational Services, now the Office of Student Financial Assistance, and Reverend Johnson served as both a member and as the chair; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson served twenty-eight years as the chief administrative deputy of the Iberville Parish Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson founded and served as president of the Iberville Coalition of Black Peace Officers; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson served his community in numerous capacities including serving as a member and vice-chair of the Iberville Parish Charter Commission, which developed the Iberville Parish home rule charter in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson was appointed by the Iberville Parish School Board as a member and as chair of the Zero Tolerance Commission; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson was a founding member and president of East Iberville Community Complex Incorporated and was instrumental in procuring the defunct Sunshine High School and nearly twenty acres of land to provide community services, and the area is now the site of St. Gabriel City Hall; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson was an inaugural alderman for the Town of St. Gabriel; he was initially appointed by Governor Edwin Edwards and he was subsequently elected by the citizens of St. Gabriel and served as an alderman for five years; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson was a member and the first black president of the Capital Economic Development District Council, which includes the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson served as a pastor for more than thirty-six years at three churches: First Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Sunshine, Louisiana; St. Joseph Baptist Church in St. Gabriel, Louisiana; and Greater Ebenezer Baptist Church in Plaquemine, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Johnson was truly a man with a servant's heart and he exemplified it in his more than forty years of distinguished service to his community and to the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of the Reverend Lionel Johnson, Sr., and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that his family, friends, and church community find comfort in his memory during this difficult time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Reverend Lionel Johnson, Sr.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES