

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 13

BY REPRESENTATIVE KNOX

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences on the death of Dorothy Prevost, the last living matriarch of the 1960 New Orleans public school desegregation movement

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Dorothy
3 Prevost, the last living matriarch of the 1960 New Orleans public school
4 desegregation movement.

5 WHEREAS, Dorothy Prevost was the mother of the late Tessie Prevost-Williams and
6 was the last living parent of the New Orleans Four who desegregated public schools in New
7 Orleans, Louisiana, on November 14, 1960; and

8 WHEREAS, Mrs. Prevost, Mrs. Eula Mae Etienne, Mrs. Lucille Bridges, and
9 Mrs. Louise Tate made the courageous decision to send their six-year-old daughters, Tessie
10 Prevost, Gail Etienne, Ruby Bridges, and Leona Tate, into previously all-white public
11 schools under federal protection; their daughters' enrollment marked a pivotal moment in the
12 enforcement of *Brown v. Board of Education* in the Deep South and became a defining
13 chapter in the modern civil rights movement; and

14 WHEREAS, the display of bravery made by these mothers and their daughters
15 inspired the Birmingham Children's Crusade of 1963 and reignited the national momentum
16 of the civil rights movement; their efforts played a pivotal role in the passage of the Civil
17 Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

18 WHEREAS, Mrs. Prevost worked tirelessly to ensure that history fully acknowledges
19 the sacrifices of all four of these civil rights leaders; in 2020, the New Orleans City Council
20 unanimously supported a resolution establishing November 14 as New Orleans Four Day,

1 and the mayor presented Ms. Etienne, Ms. Tate, and Mrs. Prevost-Williams with keys to the
2 city; and

3 WHEREAS, Mrs. Prevost displayed a measure of courage that reshaped the
4 trajectory of American democracy; her courage enforced the constitution, her faith advanced
5 justice, and her sacrifice expanded opportunity for Black Americans; and

6 WHEREAS, Dorothy Prevost is a civil rights and American icon whose inspiring
7 legacy is forever preserved in the country's history.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
9 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of
10 Dorothy Prevost, the last living matriarch of the 1960 New Orleans public school
11 desegregation movement, and does hereby encourage all Louisianians to honor her inspiring
12 life and legacy of courage.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 13 Original

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