

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 120

BY REPRESENTATIVE FIRMENT

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of Clarence Durham, the last living LaSalle Parish World War II veteran.

WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing, on March 18, 2026, of Clarence Durham, the last living LaSalle Parish World War II veteran; and

WHEREAS, Clarence Durham was born on August 16, 1927, during the height of the Great Depression; he was the seventh-born child in his family, and he learned the value of hard work at an early age; he left school after fifth grade to support his family and carried his responsibilities with strength and humility; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Durham joined the military at the age of seventeen and served in the United States Merchant Marine; he was sent to Okinawa Island, where he and forty crew members were assigned to transport supplies, including ammunition, guns, and oil, to troops stationed and fighting in Japan and other parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Durham married the love of his life, Beverly Hunt, after returning from the war; they shared sixty-two years of love and commitment to each other and raised three sons, Gerald, Robert, and Brian; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Durham spent forty years in the oil industry and worked on drilling rigs across many different towns and states; he lived in Abbeville, Louisiana, during this time and eventually settled in Jena, Louisiana, in 1971; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Durham was a faithful man and longtime member of East Jena Baptist Church; his life was grounded in his strong and steady faith, and he was known as a devoted follower of Christ; he was also a member of the Michael Dempsey Lodge, where he built numerous friendships and remained actively involved in the community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Durham was most notably a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather; he cherished his family and found immense joy in the company of his great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Clarence Durham is survived by his brother, Dallie "D.L." Durham; sons, Gerald Durham (Kris), Robert Durham (Janie), and Brian Durham (Sheila); grandchildren, Stephen Durham, Robbie Durham (Danna), Katherine Smith (Caleb), Jeffrey Durham (Courtney), Hope Worthan (Jacob), Daisy Hooter (Jake), Faith Durham, Cyera Durham, and Donnie Durham; sixteen great-grandchildren; and numerous extended relatives and friends; he will be deeply missed, but the legacy of his love and service to his family, friends, community, and nation shall live on in the hearts and minds of those who were privileged to have known and loved him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Clarence Durham, the last living LaSalle Parish World War II veteran; does hereby offer enduring appreciation and respect for Mr. Durham's outstanding military service; and does hereby extend sincere wishes that his family, friends, and loved ones find comfort in their shared memories of his inspiring life.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES