

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 211

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences upon the passing of Southern University System president emeritus Dolores Margaret Richard Spikes

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

4 WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana is deeply saddened to learn of the passing
5 on June 1, 2015, of former Southern University System president Dolores Margaret Richard
6 Spikes at the age of seventy-eight; and

7 WHEREAS, Dolores Margaret Richard Spikes earned a bachelor's degree in
8 mathematics in 1957 from Southern University and a master's degree in mathematics from
9 the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and she made history in 1971 by becoming
10 the first African American to earn a doctor of philosophy degree in mathematics from
11 Louisiana State University; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Spikes became the first female chancellor of a public university in
13 Louisiana when she was named chancellor of both Southern University Baton Rouge and
14 Southern University New Orleans in the late 1980s; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Spikes was appointed to the board of Harvard University's Institute
16 of Educational Management in 1987, and in 1988, she became the first woman in the United
17 States to head a university system when she was appointed president of Southern University
18 and A&M College System; and

1 WHEREAS, the depth of contributions made by Dr. Spikes to Southern University
2 Baton Rouge led to the naming of The Dolores Margaret Richard Spikes Honors College in
3 her honor; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Spikes served as president of the University of Maryland-Eastern
5 Shore in Princess Anne, Maryland, from 1997-2001; current university president, Juliette
6 B. Bell, credits Dr. Spikes with laying the groundwork for the school's evolution into the
7 twenty-first century historically black institution it has become; and

8 WHEREAS, during Dr. Spikes' tenure as president of the University of Maryland-
9 Eastern Shore, the Hytche Athletics Center and the Student Services Center were built; and

10 WHEREAS, President Bill Clinton named Dr. Spikes to his board of advisors on
11 historically black colleges and universities in 1994; two years later, she was named vice
12 chair of the Kellogg Commission on the Future of State and Land-Grant Universities; and

13 WHEREAS, Southern University System acting chancellor Flandus McClinton, Jr.,
14 said upon learning of the death of Dr. Dolores Margaret Richard Spikes that she "was a
15 shining star among the leaders of Southern University. She brought national acclaim to the
16 university as she guided the Baton Rouge campus and the system through some of its most
17 challenging times. She was beloved and respected by faculty, staff, students, and alumni
18 during her tenure. She will be missed, but her legacy will live on. Southern University has
19 truly lost a giant".

20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
21 extend sincerest and most heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and former colleagues
22 upon the passing of Dr. Dolores Margaret Richard Spikes; does hereby express deepest
23 sympathies at the eternal departure of this trailblazer in higher education; and does hereby
24 offer prayers and hopes for comfort to those who mourn her passing.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
26 to the family of Dr. Dolores Margaret Richard Spikes.

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)]

HCR 211 Original	2015 Regular Session	Jackson
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Expresses the condolences of the legislature upon the passing of Dr. Dolores Margaret Richard Spikes, SU System president emeritus.