

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 119

BY SENATOR BROOME AND REPRESENTATIVES BARROW, HONEY, MICHAEL JACKSON AND PATRICIA SMITH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Murphy Wilbert Bell.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens of the State of Louisiana learned of the death of Mr. Murphy Wilbert Bell on Wednesday, June 11, 2008, at the age of eighty-seven; and

WHEREAS, Murphy Wilbert Bell was married to Edna Alfra Tea, in 1944, and of this union three children were born: Murphy Fairfax Bell Sr., Cynthia Bell Watson, and Edna Tea Bell Boyd; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bell was born on March 27, 1921, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and attended Perkins Elementary School and McKinley High School; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from Southern University in 1946, after serving in the United States Navy on the Pacific front during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bell graduated from Southern University Law Center in 1957, and was inducted into the Southern University Law Center Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, he was honored during the 2007 commencement as the law center's Golden Alumni; and

WHEREAS, he was a prominent attorney in the civil rights movement and was active in civil rights litigation; and

WHEREAS, he began representing black plaintiffs in the East Baton Rouge School Board desegregation case in 1969, thirteen years after the case was filed; and

WHEREAS, he fought for the desegregation of school districts throughout Louisiana and defended prominent figures in the civil rights movement, such as Emmitt J. Douglas, a former NAACP president who was arrested in 1970 after attempting to eat in an all-white establishment in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, during his long career he served as president of the East Baton Rouge chapter of the NAACP, was a member of the state Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights, and served as the director of the parish office of the Office of Public Defender; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bell was a man of wisdom who used his talents, integrity, and passion to change his community and state for the better; and

WHEREAS, upon his death, the world lost a unique individual who left an indelible mark upon the lives of all those who knew him; and

WHEREAS, because of his numerous accomplishments in public and private life, the death of Mr. Murphy Wilbert Bell has left a void in the community and has created a genuine sense of profound sorrow in his friends and family; and

WHEREAS, the memory of Murphy Wilbert Bell will remain eternal in the hearts and minds of his family, friends, and all of those people whose lives he touched and who loved him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Murphy Wilbert Bell.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the children of Murphy Wilbert Bell.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES