

Regular Session, 2008

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 235

BY REPRESENTATIVES HONEY, BARROW, CARTER, FOIL, GREENE, MICHAEL JACKSON, MCVEA, PONTI, RICHARDSON, PATRICIA SMITH, AND WHITE AND SENATOR BROOME

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Hermon Spikes.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the legislature have learned of the death of Hermon Spikes on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at the age of seventy-three; and

WHEREAS, born on December 18, 1934, as the thirteenth child of David and Della McBride Spikes, Mr. Spikes received both his baccalaureate and master's degrees from Southern University; following his undergraduate studies, he served with valor and fortitude in the Korean Conflict and the National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spikes began his teaching career in secondary school mathematics at Washington High School in Lake Charles; later, his family moved to Baton Rouge, where he taught at the Southern University Laboratory School, and he served for one year there as interim principal; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spikes' proudest moments resulted from the successes of his students, many of whom kept in touch with him years after he took an early retirement from teaching to pursue business interests; before those pursuits, he served as assistant commissioner of agriculture; and

WHEREAS, for many years, Mr. Spikes coached Little League Baseball; he loved sports and people and often deprived himself of many things so that his players could enjoy the sport and take at least one trip per year; his wife and daughter were his biggest fans; and

WHEREAS, an active community servant, Mr. Spikes served on city-parish government committees, campaigned for public office, and helped his fellow citizens however he could; he received awards for his civic work and service; and

WHEREAS, during the early period of integration of public and private schools in Baton Rouge, Mr. Spikes dedicated many evenings and weekends for a number of years to tutoring young African Americans who faced negative attitudes and lack of help at school because of their race; and

WHEREAS, during his college days, Mr. Spikes sang with the Zion Travelers, and later, in Lake Charles, he continued his gospel singing in quartets; his later years were often spent in quiet meditation and prayer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spikes' survivors include his devoted and loving wife of forty-nine years and ten months, Dolores Margaret Richard Spikes; their loving daughter, Rhonda Kathleen Spikes-Pete; his grandchildren, Bianca Christina Margaret Pete, Bronson Christopher Lawrence Pete; their father, Chris Pete; a nephew who was like a brother to him, Hubert Glasgo; a sister whom he loved dearly, Vera Mae (Janet) Dansby; his lifelong best friend, Don Knighton, Jr.; and numerous nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spikes was preceded in death by his parents, David and Della McBride Spikes; his brothers, Otis Spikes, Sr., Earnest Spikes, Howard Spikes, Relphard L. Spikes, Sr., Oscar Spikes; and his sisters, Essie Lewis, Doshia Bell, Pearl Booker, Frankie Gasaway, Leona Glasgo, and Farry Mae (Sally) Jones; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spikes, who was admired by all whose lives he touched, leaves a rich and unique legacy and is greatly missed; and

WHEREAS, with the death of Mr. Spikes, Louisiana has lost one of her finest citizens, a committed and highly productive man of God whose faith, achievements, and contributions have left an indelible mark on every person whose life he touched with his strength, wisdom, and love; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spikes devoted his life to his family, his community, and his fellow citizens, and though his death has created a tremendous void, his memory shall live forever in the minds and hearts of all who knew and loved him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Hermon Spikes, does hereby record for posterity his singular contributions and outstanding achievements, and does hereby express enduring appreciation for the pride and honor that this distinguished individual will forever bring to his family, friends, students, players, community, and state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Hermon Spikes.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE