

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 131

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARPENTER

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Melenda "Mendy" Dionne Jeter.

WHEREAS, Melenda Dionne Jeter was born in Camden, New Jersey, on October 7, 1971, to Brenda Wade Dickerson Jeter and the late Melvin Leroy Jeter; she had immense pride for her uniquely-spelled name, which is a combination of her parents' first names; and

WHEREAS, from a young age, Mendy displayed an exceptionally high intellect along with a truly infectious personality; she grasped the ability to read as a kindergartner, allowing her to skip the first grade; and

WHEREAS, Mendy graduated from Lake Braddock Secondary School in 1989; she excelled both academically and athletically while in high school; she was a three-sport athlete, competing in soccer, track and field, and basketball, and even won a state championship in the triple jump event; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, Mendy attended the University of Virginia where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology; while in college, she served as a peer advisor and was active in several student organizations; and

WHEREAS, after college, Mendy accepted a full scholarship to the University of Virginia Medical School; she graduated at the top of her class and was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society; she then became the first African American to complete a residency in radiation oncology at Harvard's Joint Combined Program hosted at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital; during her residency, she also earned a master of public health degree; and

WHEREAS, Mendy moved to Houston in 2002 to join the faculty of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center as the first African American woman in radiation oncology; with her dream job secured, she passionately served MD Anderson for twenty years and became a world-renowned expert in the field of thoracic radiation oncology; she gave lectures around the world and published more than sixty peer-reviewed academic works; and

WHEREAS, Mendy was a member of several professional organizations including the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the Mary Susan Moore Society of African American Women Physicians, the Houston Medical Forum, the American College of Radiology, the National Medical Association, the American Medical Association, and the University of Houston Women's Study Board; and

WHEREAS, Mendy cherished her roles as a mother and wife, she spent twenty-five loving years with her husband, Garvin Davis; the two shared a love of art, wine, music, and travel; they traveled together often, sharing many unique and memorable experiences; their union was blessed with two daughters, Blair Victoria Davis and Dylan Alexandra Davis; and

WHEREAS, Mendy also accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia; after moving to Houston, she and her family joined the Wheeler Baptist Church family; and

WHEREAS, Mendy battled severe Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, which is an autoimmune disease that attacks healthy tissue throughout adulthood, and passed away on May 5, 2022; she leaves to cherish her beautiful memory her mother, Brenda "Oma" Jeter; her loving husband, Garvin H. Davis, M.D.; her daughters, Blair Davis and Dylan Davis; brothers, Leroy Jeter, and his wife Maria, and Cordell "Cisco" Jeter, and his wife Sandra; mother-in-law, Elaine "E-meme" Davis; father-in-law, Leroy "LePapa" Davis, Ph.D.; brother-in-law, Griffin L. Davis, M.D., and his wife Deanne; uncles, David S. Jeter, Jr., and Charles Richard Dickerson, and his wife Dana; aunt, Johnnie Manuel; nieces, Sophia Jonatan, and her husband Stephen, Kimberly Jeter, and her husband Thomas, and McKenzie Davis; nephews, Jonathan Jeter, and his wife Brandy, and Cameron Davis; five great-nieces and great-nephews who knew her as "Mendy the Great"; and a host of extended family members, colleagues, and friends; she will be deeply missed, but certainly never forgotten.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Melenda "Mendy" Dionne Jeter and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that her family, friends, and loved ones find comfort in her memory during this difficult time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Melenda Dionne Jeter.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES