

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 151

BY REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Bessie Mae Watson King.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the Louisiana House of Representatives has learned of the death of Bessie Mae Watson King; and

WHEREAS, Bessie Mae Watson King, affectionately known as Dear, was born on May 12, 1934, in Mer Rouge to Evangelist and Niccie Watson; she departed this life on Monday, May 2, 2016; and

WHEREAS, she accepted Christ at an early age; she began her work at First Missionary Baptist Church, where she was a faithful and dedicated member until she moved to Monroe; she was active with the music department, Sunday school, and other church auxiliaries; and

WHEREAS, she received her education in the Morehouse School District; in 1954, she became a member of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, where she remained for more than sixty years and served as a choir member and deaconess; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. King was a very talented musician; she was the musician for various church choirs including St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, Peter Rock Baptist Church, Friendship Baptist Church, Mary Gross Baptist Church, Spring Hill Baptist Church, St. Luke Baptist Church, and Mount Sinai Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, she was well-known locally and nationally for her exceptional musical talents; she brought many nationally known gospel artists to northeast Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, she was also a member of the Northeast Louisiana Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, she married the love of her life, Robert L. King; and

WHEREAS, in her leisure time, Mrs. King enjoyed fishing and shopping, and she especially liked shoes; and

WHEREAS, she was preceded in death by her parents; her siblings, Isiah, Elie, and Moses; and her husband; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. King is survived by her daughter, Ruth L. Watson-Grant; her son, DeBore C. Watson; her siblings, Selma M. Washington, Norwood Watson, Dr. Evangeline Brown, Lee Otis Watson, and Roy L. Watson; her grandchildren, DeBore C. Watson, Jr., Kayla K. Watson, Kenithra Knowles, Jacques J. Watson, Jared Watson, Jairus Watson, and Jai Robert Watson; her great-grandchildren, Deja Watson, Curtis Watson, Kiara Watson, Keona Forney, Kyla Forney, and Kai Forney; her godchildren, the Brown children, Reverend John and Candice Russell, II, Sonia Gibson Amos, George Payne, and Reverend Gilbert Wilson; and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends; and

WHEREAS, the death of Bessie Mae Watson King has left a tremendous void in her community and has created a genuine sense of sorrow in the many citizens whose lives she touched.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Bessie Mae Watson King; does hereby record for posterity her manifold contributions; and does hereby pay tribute to her for the generous and effective way in which she dedicated her intelligence and her energy to the service of her family and friends, her community, and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Bessie Mae Watson King.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES