

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 155

BY REPRESENTATIVE BURRELL

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Sharon Dunnings Davis.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the House of Representatives has learned of the death of Sharon Dunnings Davis on May 12, 2013, at the age of sixty-one; and

WHEREAS, Sharon Antoinette Dunnings was born on November 12, 1951, in Monroe, Louisiana, to Mr. and Mrs. David Edward Dunnings, Sr., and was raised in a devout Catholic home; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Davis attended Little Flower Academy through the eleventh grade, and in 1969, the school merged with St. Frederick High School, she was part of the first integrated graduating class; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Davis earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Northeast Louisiana University and a master's degree, plus thirty, in education from Louisiana Tech University; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Davis was crowned Miss Black Monroe in 1969, and at Northeast Louisiana University, she became the first black class queen when she was elected by the student body as Miss Freshman on the homecoming court; and

WHEREAS, on July 28, 1979, she married the love of her life, S.P. Davis, and their union was blessed with two loving children, Kharmen Kanessa Davis and S.P. Davis, Jr.; she was also the stepmother of Timothy Beaver and Kylie Cotton; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Davis taught for nearly thirty years at various schools in the north Louisiana area, including Little Flower Academy, Summer Grove Elementary, T.L Rhodes Elementary, Butler Elementary, Bossier Elementary, and Rusheon Middle School; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Davis served as assistant principal of Greenacres Middle School, where she also initiated the first black history program, and was named Teacher of the Year in 1997 at Butler Elementary; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Davis was very active at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church and was an honorary member of her husband's church, Rocksprings Baptist Church Number Two of Plain Dealing; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Davis was also an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary and was a founding member of the Coalition for Social Justice, an advocacy organization for civil justice and community service; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Davis leaves to cherish her memory her devoted husband, S.P. Davis, Sr.; two children, Kharmen Davis and S.P. Davis, Jr.; five siblings, Lawana Dunnings Holmes and husband Jeffery, Terez Dunnings, Mechelle Dunnings Harris, Michael Dunnings and wife Cheryl, and Marvelle Dunnings; one aunt, Faye Taylor Bess; one sister-in-law, Essie Mae Graham and husband Clyde; three brothers-in-law, Andrew Davis and wife Charlesetta, Charles Davis and wife Gloria, Earl Davis and wife Elaine; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends; and

WHEREAS, the death of Mrs. Davis has left a tremendous void in her community and has created a genuine sense of sorrow in all who knew her, and she leaves behind a rich legacy of hard work, tenacity, courage, determination, and integrity and will forever be remembered for the impact she had on the lives of the countless students and other individuals whose lives she touched over the years.

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 Sharon Dunnings Davis, does hereby record for posterity her remarkable gifts and profound talents, her outstanding abilities, and her generosity and kindness, does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the pride and honor that his extraordinary woman will forever bring to her family and friends, her community, and the state of Louisiana, and does hereby express the deep regret of the entire state upon the loss of this phenomenal woman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Sharon Dunnings Davis.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES