

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 180

BY REPRESENTATIVES JEFFERSON, BOUIE, GAINES, BAGNERIS, CARPENTER, GARY CARTER, COX, FRANKLIN, GLOVER, HALL, JIMMY HARRIS, HUNTER, JACKSON, JAMES, JENKINS, JORDAN, TERRY LANDRY, LYONS, MARCELLE, DUSTIN MILLER, NORTON, PIERRE, PRICE, AND SMITH

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Dr. Samuel DuBois Cook, former president of Dillard University in New Orleans, and to record the posthumous tribute of the members of the House of Representatives for Dr. Cook's distinguished record as an educator, administrator, public servant, scholar, and civil and human rights activist.

WHEREAS, it is with sincere regret and profound sorrow that the members of the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the death of Dr. Samuel DuBois Cook on May 29, 2017, at the age of eighty-eight; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cook's remarkable life included an almost sixty-year academic career committed to social justice and equality, exhibiting in all he did his dedication to addressing inequality and racial and ethnic divisions; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cook served as Dillard University's fourth president for twenty-two and one-half years and is credited with strengthening university curriculum, expanding student services, increasing student enrollment by fifty percent, and raising significant funds to improve the campus and its facilities; in 1989, Dr. Cook established the unprecedented Dillard University National Center for Black-Jewish Relations; he retired from the university and was elected by the board of trustees as President Emeritus in 1997; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cook was born in 1928 in Griffin, Georgia, to Reverend and Mrs. M.E. Cook who instilled in Dr. Cook a passion for education that served as the foundation for his deep love for teaching; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cook received a bachelor's degree from Morehouse College in 1948, which he attended with his friend, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University before serving in the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cook began his career teaching at Southern University and taught at Atlanta University, the University of Illinois, UCLA, and Duke University; at Duke, in 1966, he became the first African American to hold a tenured faculty appointment at a predominately white southern college or university, leaving his mark as a mentor, friend, role model, and leader on those he encountered; and

WHEREAS, evidencing his estimable impact on social justice and role as a public servant throughout his career, Dr. Cook was appointed by President Carter to the National Council on the Humanities and by President Clinton to the historic United States Holocaust Memorial Council; Dr. Cook also served as the first black president of the Southern Political Science Association, vice president of the American Political Science Association, president of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Inc., and chair of the Presidents of the United Negro College Fund; and

WHEREAS, to honor his legacy and continue his research on the social problems associated with inequality and divisions by race and ethnicity, several universities have named various institutions, professorships, and fellowships for Dr. Cook, including the Fine Arts and Communications Center at Dillard University, the Center on Social Equity at Duke University, and the Summer Academy at The Ohio State University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cook holds honorary degrees from Morehouse College, The Ohio State University, Dillard University, Illinois College, Duke University, the University of New Orleans, and Chicago Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cook was an active member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, is a former ordained deacon at White Rock Baptist Church in Durham, North Carolina, and was a longtime member of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cook is survived by his wife, Sylvia F. Cook, his children, Samuel DuBois Cook Jr., and Karen J. Cook, and grandchildren, Alexandra Renee Cook and Samuel DuBois Cook, III; and

WHEREAS, his life's work demonstrates his commitment to "The divine search for knowledge, truth and wisdom" which he affirmed "is by no means alien to the equally divine quest for human decency, justice, compassion, love, peace, and the beloved community of whole and creative persons".

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its sincere sorrow at the loss of Dr. Samuel DuBois Cook.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend posthumous tribute to the remarkable life of Dr. Samuel DuBois Cook, for a distinctive career of excellence and his legacy of commendable service in academics and the furtherance of social justice and equality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Dr. Samuel DuBois Cook.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES