## Regular Session, 2013

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 51

## BY REPRESENTATIVE HONORE

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To express the condolences of the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana
3	upon the death of Dr. Huel Davis Perkins, former administrator at Southern
4	University and Louisiana State University.
5	WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the Louisiana House of
6	Representatives have learned of the death of Huel Davis Perkins of Baton Rouge, on April
7	15, 2013, at the age of 88; and
8	WHEREAS, it is only fitting to recognize and record for posterity the unique and
9	wonderful legacy of highly constructive service that Dr. Perkins leaves behind; and
10	WHEREAS, Dr. Perkins was a longtime administrator at both Southern University
11	and Louisiana State University, and his contributions to higher education and the state of
12	Louisiana merit the highest recognition; and
13	WHEREAS, Dr. Perkins was born on December 24, 1924, in Baton Rouge,
14	Louisiana, and he always believed that education and preparation could overcome any
15	barrier, a truth evidenced by his life; and
16	WHEREAS, Dr. Perkins graduated with highest honors from Southern University
17	in 1947 with a bachelor's degree in music and later earned master's and doctorate degrees
18	from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois; and
19	WHEREAS, after directing Southern's music department for eight years, Dr. Perkins
20	served as dean of Southern University's College of Arts and Humanities from 1968 to 1978;
21	and
22	WHEREAS, Dr. Perkins began his remarkable career at LSU in 1970 as assistant
23	vice chancellor for academic affairs, a position he held until 1990, when he moved to the
24	chancellor's office as an executive assistant and special assistant; and

1	WHEREAS, in 2005, Dr. Perkins was awarded a doctor of humane letters from LSU
2	and a doctoral fellowship program to help students achieve their highest potential was
3	created and named in his honor; and
4	WHEREAS, Dr. Perkins was appointed by Governor Buddy Roemer to the state
5	Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in 1998, and President Bill Clinton named
6	Dr. Perkins to the board of advisors of the J.W. Fullbright foreign scholarship program in
7	1996; and
8	WHEREAS, Dr. Perkins earned a number of humanitarian awards during his career
9	and served on many boards, including the Capital Area United Way, Baton Rouge
10	Symphony, Louisiana Public Broadcasting Corporation, and the New Orleans Museum of
11	Art; and
12	WHEREAS, Dr. Perkins was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and
13	Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, an organization of which he was a former national president; and
14	WHEREAS, the Jaguar Nation of Southern University will forever be indebted to Dr.
15	Perkins for writing Southern's Fight Song in 1951; and
16	WHEREAS, Dr. Perkins was described by his former colleagues as a classy
17	gentleman with quick wit, an intellectual of the first magnitude, and an inspiration to young
18	people to achieve their highest potential; and
19	WHEREAS, Dr. Perkins leaves to cherish his memory his wife of sixty-four years,
20	Thelma O. Smith Perkins; one son, Huel Alfred Perkins and his wife Priscilla; two
21	grandsons, Huel Jared Perkins and Vincent Frederick Perkins; three nephews, two
22	godchildren, and a host of cousins and friends; and
23	WHEREAS, Dr. Perkins was widely respected and admired for his unwavering
24	dedication to higher education and his service to Southern University and LSU; and
25	WHEREAS, Dr. Perkins was a man whose generosity, smile, and loving heart have
26	left an indelible mark on the many people whose lives he touched; and
27	WHEREAS, Dr. Perkins leaves behind a rich and unique legacy of tenacity,
28	determination, integrity, intellect, and professionalism and will forever be remembered for
29	contributions he made to higher education in Louisiana; and
30	WHEREAS, Dr. Perkins will truly be missed by the faculty, staff, and administrators
31	of Southern University and LSU, many of whom were blessed to call him a friend, and he

will always be remembered fondly for the genuine interest and regard he exhibited for those
 with whom he worked and for the diligent, consistent manner in which he provided
 invaluable service, life lessons, and advice day after day, year after year; and

WHEREAS, with the death of Dr. Perkins, Louisiana has lost one of her finest sons, a true Southern gentleman who loved his students, and though his death has created a tremendous void in his community, he will forever remain an inspiration in the minds and hearts of all who knew him.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the 9 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the 10 death of Dr. Huel Davis Perkins, does hereby recognize his outstanding achievements and 11 singular contributions to Southern University, Louisiana State University, and the state of 12 Louisiana, does hereby record for posterity his extraordinary gifts and profound talent, his 13 outstanding abilities, and his generosity and kindness, does hereby extend appreciation for 14 his enduring legacy that will continue to be a source of great pride and honor for his family 15 and friends, his community, and the state of Louisiana, and does hereby express the deep 16 regret of the entire state upon the loss of this extraordinary gentleman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
to family of Dr. Huel Davis Perkins.

## SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES