

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 130

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of George P. Evans.

WHEREAS, it is with great sadness that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned that on May 15, 2023, the Honorable George Patrick Evans, a giant among men with the heart of a lamb, made his way home to his heavenly father; and

WHEREAS, George Evans was born in Selma, Alabama, on August 16, 1944, the eldest of two sons born to Willie George and Lucy Evans; and

WHEREAS, affectionately known as "Georgie P" by his schoolmates and childhood friends, he accepted Christ into his heart and life at an early age and it was a guiding force igniting his passion for his family, friends, and the city of Selma; and

WHEREAS, George attended kindergarten at Reformed Presbyterian Church and was educated in Selma city schools where he attended Payne Elementary School and was a 1962 graduate of R.B. Hudson High School; and

WHEREAS, George attended college at St. Mary's of The Plains in Dodge City, Kansas, on a football scholarship, playing the position of wide receiver all four years and, always a stellar athlete, he was also a member of the track team and an avid fan of basketball; and

WHEREAS, while visiting friends in Wichita, Kansas, he was introduced to the love of his life, Jeannie Wooten, a beautiful, young nursing student, and on August 22, 1966, the two were wed in St. Paul's A.M.E. Church, the same church where the two had met; and

WHEREAS, after receiving a call from his hometown saying there was a need for a teacher, the newlywed couple set off to make their life in Selma, Alabama, and George taught physical education and coached basketball, football, and baseball at Tipton Middle School; and

WHEREAS, George's career in education would encompass years of leadership

positions in the Dallas County School System, advancing through the ranks as principal, Federal Programs Director, Special Education Coordinator, and ultimately, the first African American to hold the position of Superintendent of Dallas County Schools; and

WHEREAS, George's background in athletics provided the platform he needed to develop an extension to the county sports program for students and a countywide field day became a highly anticipated annual event; and

WHEREAS, George organized a Special Olympics field day which also became an annual event recognizing athletic efforts for a community of students close to his heart and he continued the program after his retirement from the Dallas County School System, garnering support and donations from city and county donors; and

WHEREAS, a man with a servant's heart, George enjoyed membership in many service and political organizations including Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, 100 Black Men of Selma, the Chesterfield Club, Twelve High Club, the Exchange Club, the Alabama Conference of Black Mayors, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors; and

WHEREAS, his involvement in sports and his love for basketball provided many opportunities that nourished his athletic side; George was a member of the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) for over thirty-five years and a member of the Southeastern Conference (SEC) for over thirty years; he officiated in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) March Madness Men's Tournament for twelve years, including one season where he had the opportunity to officiate an "Elite Eight" game; George served on the Bryant Jordan Athletic Program Scholarship Board, was inducted into the Alabama High School Athletic Association's Hall of Fame, and in 2015, he was honored by an induction into the SWAC Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, as fond as George was of spending time on the basketball courts of many secondary and collegiate institutions in Alabama and across the country, he was equally fond of fairways and putting greens and, when possible, on Wednesdays and Sundays, he met with lifelong friends for eighteen holes of golf; he instilled his passion for golf in his sons and every year on Father's Day he, along with his sons, Patrick, Duane, and Byron, his brother and younger cousins, would head out to Ocumulgee Golf Course for trash talking and bragging rights; and

WHEREAS, following his retirement from a productive forty-year educational career, George was selected by the Alabama State Department of Education as Chief Academic Officer to offer support and training to schools across the state who were identified as underachieving; and

WHEREAS, during this busy and challenging time, George continued to support and offer service to his community and state, serving as the first African American President of the Selma City Council and served the council for eight years, the Superintendent of Selma Water Works, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Alabama Department of Archives and History, a member of the Executive Committee of the Alabama League of Municipalities, a board member of the Walker-Johnson YMCA, a member of Leadership Selma, and an Elder of the Reformed Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, George felt called to serve the community he loved by expanding his position in leadership from City Council President to Mayor of Selma where he served for two terms working for the betterment and prosperity of all of Selma's citizens; and

WHEREAS, always multitasking and playing multiple roles, George thoroughly enjoyed his role as Granddaddy to his seven grandchildren; he never missed a basketball game, church performance, school function, birthday party, dance recital, or graduation; and

WHEREAS, George leaves to mourn his passing, his wife of almost fifty-seven years, Jeannie; sons, Patrick, Duane, and Byron; grandchildren, Tremaine, Kelly, Patrick Junior (PJ), Paxson George, Erin, Pailee, Pilar, and Eden; special daughters, Kateri, Stephanie, Evelyn, and Chimeria; and a multitude of cousins and friends.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of the Honorable George P. Evans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Jeannie Wooten Evans.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE