

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 151

BY SENATORS PETERSON, ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PRICE, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To celebrate the life memories of Kenneth Rene Michael Carter.

WHEREAS, the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana greatly honors and commemorates the life of Kenneth Rene Michael Carter who, at the age of seventy-four, passed away on August 3, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Carter was born on July 22, 1944, in New Orleans, Louisiana, to Richmond Sr. and Catherine "Kate" Carter; and

WHEREAS, he attended Saint Monica Elementary School and distinguished himself early in life as a promising basketball player, thus earning basketball scholarships to Xavier Preparatory High School and Loyola University where he was one of the first five African-American students admitted to its undergraduate program in 1962; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Carter ultimately graduated from the University of New Orleans having earned his bachelor's degree in political science in 1976 and his Juris Doctor from Loyola University in 1978; and

WHEREAS, he began his legal career at Herman, Herman and Katz Law Firm, then opened his own law firm, Carter and Cates, while becoming a renowned attorney; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Carter, a trailblazer, was a man of many firsts; he was the first African-American elected assessor in the state of Louisiana, serving from 1985 until 1994, and the first African-American president of the Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association; he founded the Black Organization of Leadership Development (BOLD), and served as a board member and leader of the Dryades Street YMCA which served Central City youth and their families; and

WHEREAS, he served as the first president of the Freret Street Development Corporation and as chair of the New Orleans Alcoholic Beverage Control Board; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Carter was a leader in the historic National Tobacco Litigation Settlement, which successfully reformed the tobacco industry and redefined multidistrict litigation; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of the first and oldest African-American greek-letter fraternal organization known as Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, the "Boule"; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth and his beloved wife of fifty-three years, Gwendolyn "Gigi" Carter, have three daughters: Tara Hernandez, Karen Carter-Peterson, and Eileen Carter; and

WHEREAS, in May 2015, his daughter, Senator Peterson, along with other state senators, presented the couple with a resolution honoring their golden anniversary as they celebrated fifty years of marriage; and

WHEREAS, he leaves behind his wife, three daughters, three grandchildren, two brothers, and one sister; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Carter was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, trailblazer and exceptional statesman who leaves behind many wonderful memories that will be treasured and celebrated forever by his family and countless friends.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby honor and commemorate the life of Kenneth Rene Michael Carter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his daughter, Senator Karen Carter-Peterson.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE