

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 181

BY SENATOR CARTER

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of Wilfred Dennis Jr. of New Orleans, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing of Wilfred Dennis Jr., noted photographer, entrepreneur, and community leader; and

WHEREAS, Wilfred Dennis was the imaginative genius behind Dennis Photofinish, Ltd., a commercial photography business founded in 1969; and

WHEREAS, for nearly five decades his lifelong vocation was to capture a glimpse of the emotion and beauty in the lives of his illustrious clientele; and

WHEREAS, Wilfred Dennis had the eye of an artist and the ability to catch the essence of personality, love, joy, and energy that lies within his subjects; his motto was "Cherish the Moment"; and

WHEREAS, his creative renderings included studio sittings, school portraits, weddings, senior graduate portfolios, dance recitals, proms, and other social events; and

WHEREAS, Wilfred Dennis also had the opportunity to photograph many famous icons such as Mohammed Ali, Redd Foxx, New Orleans Mayor Ernest "Dutch" Morial, and President of the United States, Barack Obama; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his career in photography, Wilfred Dennis had honed his cooking skills at the restaurants of Court of Two Sisters and Brennan's, and he also worked as an actor in movie productions; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of George Washington Carver High School, Mr. Dennis matriculated to Delgado Community College and Southern University of New Orleans; he received his credentials from the Winona School of Professional Photography located in Winona Lake, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, he acquired the nickname of "Front Page", in recognition of the epic images he produced as a photographer for the Associated Press; he was employed by the Louisiana Weekly newspaper and he traveled abroad on numerous news story assignments;

and

WHEREAS, Wilfred Dennis established the holiday tradition of a "Chocolate Santa" for children's Christmas photos; and

WHEREAS, as a steward of the community that he loved, Mr. Dennis supported business interests, philanthropic entities, and religious and fraternal organizations; and

WHEREAS, Wilfred Dennis acted as an instructor and mentor at Dillard University in Upward Bound, an academic program that assists high school students in pursuit of postsecondary education opportunities; and

WHEREAS, February 25, 2017, at the Algiers Mardi Gras parade, "Icons of the Seventies", for the Krewe of NOMTOC (New Orleans Most Talked of Club), Mr. Dennis reigned as King NOMTOC the XLVII along with Queen Jada Cymone Washington; and

WHEREAS, he was a lifelong member of the Krewe of NOMTOC and served as its exclusive photographer; and

WHEREAS, Wilfred Dennis served his Lord as a faithful member and trustee of the Pleasant Zion Missionary Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by his parents, Irma and Wilfred Dennis Sr., he is survived by his wife, Gail; siblings, Dwan D. Haydel and Craig Dennis; extended family, and many friends and associates; and

WHEREAS, Wilfred Dennis shall be remembered for his good works as a steward of the community and for the special memories he created with the thousands of beautiful photographic images he captured that punctuated the important events of life.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the passing of Wilfred Dennis Jr., a man of extraordinary talent and vision.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby note his philanthropy and community service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Wilfred Dennis Jr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE