

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 30

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

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Bishop Tom Fred "T. F." Tenney.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the death of Bishop T. F. Tenney, a celebrated Louisiana faith leader, on Friday, June 1, 2018, at the age of eighty-four; and

WHEREAS, Tom Fred "T. F." Tenney was born and raised in DeRidder, Louisiana, felt called into ministry and service at a young age; in 1949 at the age of fifteen, he began his ministry, and at the age nineteen, he assumed his first pastorate in Monroe, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in 1952, he was elected youth secretary of the Louisiana District United Pentecostal Church, and for sixty-five years from 1952 until his death, almost without exception, he ministered and held some position within the United Pentecostal Church International; and

WHEREAS, from 1960-1976, T. F. Tenney held several administrative positions; from 1976-78, he returned to DeRidder to serve as pastor of his home congregation, and, in 1978, he was elected District Superintendent (Bishop) for the state of Louisiana, charged with the oversight of three hundred churches and eight hundred ministers and pastors, a position he held for twenty-seven years until his recent retirement; and

WHEREAS, he attended Apostolic Bible Institute and, in 1992, received an honorary doctorate from ABI; and

WHEREAS, he was a radio speaker, both on a nationally broadcast radio program and a local daily program; he was a respected writer and regular contributor to various religious periodicals; he was the author of eleven books: *Pentecost—What's That?*, *The Flame*

*Still Burns, The Main Thing, Advice to Pastors and Other Saints, Beyond the Sunrise, Some Things I Wish I'd Known, Secret Sources of Power, More Power to You, The Lord Said. . . Or Was That Me?, Things I Wish I Could Forget*, and, his most recent release, *Water From An Old Well*; and

WHEREAS, he also served as bishop emeritus of the Louisiana District and was a member of the Pentecostals of Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, T. F. Tenney and his wife started a ministry called Focused Light; and

WHEREAS, as the Louisiana District United Pentecostal Church stated, "Bishop Tenney has been a valiant and faithful soldier of the Lord, leading and serving this district, the UPCI, and churches around the world"; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Tenney is survived by his wife Thetus, son Tommy, daughter Teri, and many grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Tenney was widely respected and admired and was considered a giant of the faith, a pioneer for the truth, and above all, a servant of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, a loving husband, father, and grandfather, he was the kind of citizen who represents what is good about Louisiana, a man of wisdom and faith who used his gifts and talents to change his community for the better; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Tenney will long continue to bring great pride and honor to his community and to the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Bishop T. F. Tenney, does hereby extend enduring appreciation for his outstanding accomplishments and singular contributions during a lifetime of dedication and service to God, family, friends, church, community, and state, and does hereby recognize that his legacy of kindness and compassion shall live forever in the minds and hearts of all who knew and loved him.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Bishop T. F. Tenney.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE