

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 75

BY SENATORS PRICE AND SMITH

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Lloyd Price, American Rhythm and Blues artist.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the passing of Lloyd Price on May 3, 2021, at the age of eighty-eight; and

WHEREAS, Lloyd Price, while a resident of Westchester County, New York, was born on March 9, 1933, and raised in Kenner, Louisiana; his mother, Beatrice Price, owned the Fish 'n' Fry Restaurant where he picked up lifelong interests in business and food from her; and

WHEREAS, he received formal training on the trumpet and piano, sang in his church's gospel choir, and was a member of a combo in high school; and

WHEREAS, Lloyd Price helped draw national attention to New Orleans' unique and burgeoning Rhythm and Blues (R&B) sound when he recorded his first No. 1 R&B 1952 hit "*Lawdy Miss Clawdy*"; and

WHEREAS, he followed up with singles such as "*Oooh-Oooh-Oooh*", "*Ain't It a Shame*", and "*Tell Me Pretty Baby*", which reached Top 10 R&B between 1952-53; and

WHEREAS, due to a stint in the United States Army in Korea, Lloyd Price didn't return to the charts until 1957 with the release of "*Just Because*" which reached Number three in R&B and became his first pop crossover at no. 29; this was the first release through Price's own KRC Records; and

WHEREAS, with distribution through ABC Records, KRC issued several more Price classics: 1958's million-selling no. 1 R&B/pop smash "*Stagger Lee*", the 1959 million-selling no. 2 pop crossover "*Personality*" (which earned him the nickname "Mr.

Personality"), and that same year's top three pop/R&B hit, "*I'm Gonna Get Married*", and between 1959 and 1969, "*Three Little Pigs*", "*Come Into My Heart*", "*Lady Luck*", "*Question*", "*Misty*", and "*Bad Conditions*"; and

WHEREAS, Lloyd Price toured Europe in 1993 with Jerry Lee Lewis, Little Richard, and Gary U.S. Bonds, performed with soul legends Jerry Butler, Gene Chandler, and Ben E. King on the "Four Kings of Rhythm and Blues" tour in 2005, and continued to sing until 2018; and

WHEREAS, as a singer-songwriter, he launched several labels after KRC, including Double L Records, LPG Records (with boxing promoter Don King), and Turntable; he opened a club in New York City named Turntable and delved into several other business ventures, including construction, building affordable housing in New York, a line of Southern-style food products, and promoting boxing matches with Don King, including 1974's historic "Rumble in the Jungle" between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman in Kinshasa, Zaire, as well as that bout's preceding Zaire 74 music festival featuring Bill Withers, James Brown, B.B. King, The Spinners, and Miriam Makeba; and

WHEREAS, Price was given the Pioneer Award by the Rhythm and Blues Foundation in 1994, was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1998, received an honorary doctorate from Southern University in 2001, entered into the National Black Sports & Entertainment Hall of Fame in 2001, was inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame in 2010, and joined the National Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame in 2019; and

WHEREAS, he published his autobiography, *Lawdy Miss Clawdy: The True King of the 50's: The Lloyd Price Story* in 2009, and later penned a series of empowering essays for his 2015 book *sumdumhonky*; and

WHEREAS, Lloyd Price Avenue in Kenner was named for the singer in 1995 and the city celebrates an annual Lloyd Price Day; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Jackie, three daughters, and two sons; and

WHEREAS, although the death of Lloyd Price has left a tremendous void in the music community as well as in the lives of his family, friends, and fans, this unique gentleman and his extraordinary talents shall live forever in the annals of Louisiana Rhythm and Blues music and in the minds, memories, and hearts of all who knew and loved him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of legendary Rhythm and Blues pioneer Lloyd Price, does hereby record for posterity his outstanding accomplishments and singular contributions to the great art of Rhythm and Blues music, does hereby recognize the great pride and honor that this fine Louisianian will forever bring to the city of Kenner and the state, and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the wonderful way in which the music of Lloyd Price has touched the lives of countless people throughout the world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the wife of Lloyd Price, Jackie Price.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE