

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 36

BY REPRESENTATIVES DIXON, HARRIS, AND HAZEL AND SENATORS ADLEY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD, AND WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of former state representative

Israel B. Curtis of Alexandria.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Louisiana Legislature have learned of the death of their friend and former colleague, Israel B. Curtis, on February 16, 2012, at the age of seventy-nine; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Peabody High School in Alexandria, Representative Curtis received a bachelor of science degree from Grambling State University and a master of education degree from Northwestern State University; and

WHEREAS, after serving in the United States Army, Mr. Curtis served the school system of Rapides Parish for twenty-eight years as a teacher and coach from 1957 until 1977, a school board member from 1983 until 1991, and as vice president of the Rapides Parish School Board from 1987 until 1991; and

WHEREAS, Representative Curtis served four highly effective terms as a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives from 1992 until 2008, and he used every opportunity as an able and productive legislator to serve his constituency in Rapides Parish and the citizens of the state of Louisiana in an honorable and dedicated manner; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Curtis steadfastly endeavored to improve the welfare of his fellow citizens, and his legislative accomplishments were numerous; he served with great diligence as vice chairman of the House Committee on Retirement and as a member of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Ways and Means, and the Joint

Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay, as well the Democratic Caucus and the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus; and

WHEREAS, the first African American elected to the legislature from Alexandria since Reconstruction, during his tenure in the Louisiana Legislature, Representative Curtis worked on and supported many important pieces of legislation, including but not limited to legislation related to public education, retirement benefits for educators and police officers, and boosting his district's economy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Curtis also worked as the district manager of Winnfield Life Insurance Company, was a member of the Central Louisiana Drug Council, helped found the Central Louisiana Elected Officials Organization, helped organize the Magnolia Peace Officers Association, and was a captain in the Rapides Parish Sheriff's Auxiliary; and

WHEREAS, Representative Curtis was the deserving recipient of numerous honors and awards throughout the course of his career, and his professional, civic, and business affiliations included the Knights of Pythagoras, Chicota Youth Camp, Shrine Temple, Most Worshipful Prince Hall, and Veterans of Foreign Wars; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Curtis was preceded in death by his parents, Israel "Chief" and Maria Curtis, and one brother, Duel H. Curtis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Curtis is survived by his loving wife of fifty-six years, Barbara; two children, Andrea (Alan) Richardson; one son, Benjamin; two grandchildren, Aleisha and Jordan Richardson; one sister, Mamie L. Smith (Clyde); his goddaughters, Sequoia, Natalie, and Deborah; and numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, and friends; and

WHEREAS, the death of Mr. Curtis has left a great void and created a genuine sense of sorrow in all who knew him, including the members of the House family, all of whom mourn the loss of this wonderful man who served his state and this institution so well; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Curtis leaves behind a rich and unique legacy and is greatly missed by all whose lives he touched through his commitment to public service and his dedication to his fellow citizens.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of former state representative Israel B. Curtis of Alexandria and does hereby record for posterity the enduring appreciation of the citizens of Louisiana for his outstanding contributions and achievements, particularly during

his sixteen-year tenure as a distinguished member of the Louisiana House of Representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Israel B. Curtis.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE