

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 148

BY REPRESENTATIVE PRESSLY

A RESOLUTION

To commend Dr. William James Gillespie on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, Dr. William James Gillespie is the longtime principal of First Baptist Church School in Shreveport, Louisiana, and a pillar of his community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gillespie received a bachelor of science degree from Centenary College of Louisiana in 1969, a master of education degree from Memphis State University in 1970, and an educational doctorate degree from Northwestern State University in 1987; his doctoral dissertation studied the effect of merit pay on teacher performance in ArkLaTex schools; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gillespie served in numerous roles throughout his fifty-two year career in education, starting as a physical education, math, and social studies teacher at Linwood Middle School in 1971 and retiring as principal of First Baptist Church School; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gillespie served more than a decade as a school counselor at various schools throughout Shreveport including Bethune Middle School, Valencia Middle School, Lakeshore Elementary/Middle School, Turner Elementary/Middle School, and Captain Shreve High School; in 1987, he accepted the role of principal at Hendrix Elementary School, and after four years, he transferred to Riverside Elementary School; he spent the final seventeen years of his career serving as principal of First Baptist Church School; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his impressive career as a teacher, counselor, and principal, Dr. Gillespie led an altruistic life of faith-driven humanitarian service; his efforts include leading and coordinating thirty-five mission trips to Ekaterinburg, Russia, beginning in 1991, delivering eighty tons of food and medical supplies to crisis impacted families and verifying and supervising their distribution; he played a pivotal role in the development of Vacation Bible School, Bible studies, and leadership training; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gillespie's awards and achievements include being a finalist for the 1994 Caddo Association of Educators Educator of the Year Award and elementary regional finalist for the 1997 Louisiana Principal of the Year Award; he served as president of the Caddo Parish School Counselors Association in 1980 and completed the Louisiana Teacher Assistance and Assessment Program in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William James Gillespie is an incredibly inspiring man, and he is most deserving of the highest recognition for dedicating more than fifty years of service to education.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Dr. William James Gillespie on the occasion of his retirement and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that he continue to prosper in all of his endeavors as he begins a new journey in retirement.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES