

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 162

BY REPRESENTATIVES GLOVER, BAGLEY, CARMODY, JENKINS, NORTON, AND
SEABAUGH

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Richard G.
Stewart, Sr.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens of the state
of Louisiana learned of the recent death of Richard Stewart, Sr., on April 12, 2018, at the age
of ninety-two; and

WHEREAS, Richard Stewart, Sr., was born in 1926 to Wesley and Ollie Stewart; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from Central Colored High School in 1943 and attended
Spaulding Business College; and

WHEREAS, he proudly served his country and was a veteran of World War II; and

WHEREAS, on September 4, 1946, he married Corine Kinsey and three children
were born of their union: Richard Stewart, Jr., Carl Stewart, and James Stewart; and

WHEREAS, he worked as a letter carrier for the United States Postal Service from
1950 to 1981; he was one of the first black letter carriers in Shreveport and consistently
delivered smiles and encouraging words to generations of young and old residents on his
route; and

WHEREAS, prior to retiring from the post office he became the owner and operator
of Modern Cleaners where he worked evenings and continued to serve the residents of
Lakeside and Allendale; and

WHEREAS, he was a man of courage and was the lead plaintiff in a federal housing
discrimination class action lawsuit in 1954: *Richard G. Stewart, et al v Clarke Terrace Unit*

No. 1; he also served on the Caddo Parish Citizens Jail Advisory Committee in the 1970s; and

WHEREAS, always an avid supporter of education, he served several terms as president of the Parent Teacher Association in his children's schools, and he also served as president of the district PTA; he was a founding member of the Centralites of 1943 Class Reunion Organization and served as the first president of the National Centralites Reunion Organization, an alumni association of Central Colored High School, and under his leadership, the National Centralites provided scholarships and other educational assistance to deserving students; he led efforts to have Central Colored High School included on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stewart was a faithful member of St. James United Methodist Church, where he was a member of the choir, finance committee, trustees, and several mission and ministry outreach projects; he was also a longtime supporter of the Norwela Council Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, his lifelong commitment to humanity was highlighted by his receipt of an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree from Centenary College of Louisiana in 2013; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by three sons: Captain United States Navy (Retired) Richard G. Stewart, Jr., and his wife Sandra, Chief Judge Carl E. Stewart, and his wife Jo Ann, Caddo Parish District Attorney James E. Stewart, Sr., and his wife Helen; grandchildren, Tanesha Stewart, James White, and his wife Destiny, Carl E. Stewart, Jr., and his wife Belinda, Judge Karelia Stewart, and her husband Frederick, Kyle Stewart, and his wife, Lauren, James E. Stewart, Jr., Adrienne Stewart, David Stewart, Andrea Stewart, Jonathan Stewart, Jared Gafford, and his wife Vashonda, and Trae Gafford; great-grandchildren James White, Kristen White, Karlie Jackson, Carson Stewart, Chloe Stewart, Jackson Gafford, Ayelet Gafford, Jordan Stewart, and Jayden Stewart; and other relatives and friends.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Richard G. Stewart, Sr.; does hereby recognize and record for posterity his accomplishments and contributions; and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the

pride and honor that he will forever bring to his family, friends, community, and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Richard G. Stewart, Sr.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES