

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 217

BY REPRESENTATIVE WALTERS

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Robert Lee Burton.

WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing, on April 24, 2024, of Robert Lee Burton; and

WHEREAS, Robert Lee Burton was born on March 1, 1940, in Shreveport, Louisiana, and he was the fourth of eight children born to TC Burton and Beatrice Tannehill; and

WHEREAS, Robert was educated in the Caddo Parish public school system, and he graduated from the historic Booker T. Washington High School in 1959; he was also an outstanding athlete, which earned him an athletic scholarship to Grambling College, where he starred on the football team and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in education; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Burton was drafted by the Houston Oilers of the National Football League as a right offensive tackle; he was later traded to the Boston Patriots, and he ended his professional football career playing in the Canadian Football League; and

WHEREAS, after retiring from professional football, Robert returned to school to further his education; he first earned a master's degree in administrative leadership from Prairie View A&M College and then a master's plus thirty hours from Louisiana Tech University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Burton had an inspiring career as an educator that spanned more than thirty-six years; he served in numerous roles including teacher, head coach, athletic director, and administrator; he received national recognition for a Louisiana Supreme Court ruling that allowed him to serve as the first black head football coach at a predominantly white school in the Shreveport area; and

WHEREAS, Robert married Joyce Austin, and the couple had five children: William "Billy" Burns, Zandra Denise Burton (Stan), Yolondra Alda Burton, Xrevette Laveice Dabney, and Welozette Duffin (Darrin); his children blessed him with three grandchildren: Kayla Michelle Hood, Zachary Burton Dabney, and Austin Lee Duffin; and

WHEREAS, Robert was an incredibly civic-minded individual who regularly offered his immense knowledge and experience in service of his community; he was a faithful member of Midway Baptist Church #2 where he served on various church committees; he dedicated a significant amount of time serving as a member of the advisory board of the Foster Grandparents Program and the Caddo Parish Federal Teachers' Credit Union Board; and

WHEREAS, even in retirement, Mr. Burton continued to serve the community by volunteering at the Caddo Juvenile Detention Center and serving as an intake coordinator in alternative school for at-risk youth; he played a pivotal role in creating a mentoring program for problem-prone middle school boys in Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, Robert Lee Burton was a pillar of the Shreveport community, and the legacy of his service shall live on in perpetuity in the hearts and minds of the many lives he impacted.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Robert Lee Burton and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that his family, friends, and loved ones find comfort in their shared memories of his beautiful life.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES