

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 264

BY REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Reverend Dr. Ernest Marcelle, Jr., for his lifetime of civic and community service.

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Ernest Marcelle, Jr., was born in 1936 to Lessie Robinson and Ernest Marcelle, Sr., and is a native of Gonzales, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Ernest played a pivotal role during the movement to integrate bus systems; he worked with Reverend Dr. T.J. Jemison in 1953 to facilitate a bus boycott by transporting people to and from work, and in 1954, he joined another successful bus boycott to demand employment of black bus drivers; and

WHEREAS, Ernest graduated from Prairieville High School in 1955; he then joined the United States Air Force as an air control technician working on fighter planes; after leaving the Air Force, he moved to New Orleans and began working for Shelby Construction Company; he started as a receiving clerk and finished his tenure as a supervisor of construction in Terrytown, Louisiana; he also worked as a supervisor in the parts department of Boeing Company at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility from 1963 until 1967; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Marcelle became the first black state trooper to serve the Louisiana State Police in 1967; he served as a body guard and driver for governors John McKeithen and Edwin Edwards; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Marcelle was an active participant in the National Association of Black Police Officers, and he founded a local chapter in 1973; he filed a civil lawsuit against the Louisiana State Police for passing him over for promotions despite having served for nine years and holding a bachelor's degree in criminology from Loyola University of New Orleans; Ernest was victorious in his lawsuit, but the state did not honor the terms of judgment; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Reverend Dr. Marcelle was inducted into the hall of fame in the Line of Duty Museum in New York; his accomplishments include serving as a board member for the African-American Museum in Donaldsonville, Louisiana, being inducted in the hall of fame at the Lion of Judah Museum in New York, volunteering as a chaplain for the Louisiana state prison system, being a member of the disabled veterans of America, and serving as president of the council of presidents of the cooperative school club for ten years; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Marcelle earned a master's degree in theology from McKinley Theological Seminar in Jackson, Mississippi, and a doctor of philosophy degree from A.P. Clay Bible College; he served as an assistant pastor for Prayer Tower Church of God in Christ for a number of years and as pastor at Jerusalem Church of God in Christ for two years; he now serves as an associate pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Marcelle has received numerous accolades and honors for his civic activism and community service including the Outside Service to the Community award and the Unsung Hero award; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Marcelle, Jr.'s groundbreaking achievements as Louisiana's first black state trooper and his numerous accolades and honors for his civic activism and community service serve as an inspiration to future generations; his continued dedication to serving his community as a volunteer chaplain, board member, and associate pastor demonstrates his unwavering commitment to being a public servant and improving the lives of others.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Reverend Dr. Ernest Marcelle, Jr., for his lifetime of civic and community service and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that he continue to prosper in all of his endeavors.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES