

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 294

BY REPRESENTATIVE LAFLEUR

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences on the death of Doveal Essex

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Doveal  
3 Austin Essex.

4 WHEREAS, Doveal Austin Essex was born Naomi Doveal Austin on May 9, 1921,  
5 in Ponchatoula, Louisiana, to Johnie Austin and Katie Cousin Austin; she was christened at  
6 Tasker's Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Ponchatoula; and

7 WHEREAS, Doveal attended elementary school at Ponchatoula's Rosenwald School;  
8 she graduated from Kentwood Tangipahoa Parish Training School and enrolled at the  
9 formerly named Louisiana Negro Normal, now known as Grambling State University; she  
10 graduated in May 1945 with a bachelor of science degree in education and began her  
11 professional career as a teacher in Ponchatoula; she later earned a master's degree at the  
12 University of Michigan in Ann Arbor; and

13 WHEREAS, Doveal married Henry Leroy Essex on October 11, 1945; Mrs. Essex  
14 moved to Grambling to take a position at Grambling's Demonstration School where she  
15 taught until 1953; the Essex family increased with the birth of two daughters, Constant  
16 Elizabeth and Sylvia Marie; and

17 WHEREAS, the Essex family moved to Baton Rouge where Mrs. Essex worked as  
18 an elementary school teacher until she accepted a position at Southern University's College  
19 of Education; she worked at Southern University until her retirement, in 1976, after thirty  
20 years of dedicated service; and

1           WHEREAS, Mrs. Essex was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Scotlandville  
2 where she served as a Sunday School teacher and president of the Women of the Church; she  
3 also volunteered with Red Cross and Meals on Wheels; she was docent and member of the  
4 Louisiana Arts and Science Museum Board and held membership in the Gamma Eta Omega  
5 Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Baton Rouge Chapter of The Links, Inc.,  
6 and many other civic organizations; and

7           WHEREAS, Mrs. Essex was a recipient of the Silver Magnolia Award from the  
8 Women's Council of Greater Baton Rouge for her community service; and

9           WHEREAS, Doveal Austin Essex was a true light in the Baton Rouge community;  
10 she gave selflessly to others throughout the course of her inspiring life, and she will be  
11 deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of sharing in her beautiful light.

12           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
13 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Doveal  
14 Austin Essex and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that her family, friends, and loved  
15 ones find comfort in their shared memories of her beautiful life.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 294 Original

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LaFleur

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