

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY REPRESENTATIVE MOORE

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Dr. Lawrence R. Martin, Sr.

WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of Representatives has learned of the passing, on March 7, 2022, of Dr. Lawrence R. Martin, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lawrence R. Martin, Sr., was born on September 4, 1935, in Archie, Louisiana, to Dr. B.F. and Yvonne Martin; he was raised by his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Martin; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin accepted Christ at an early age at Evergreen Baptist Church in Archie; after completing his secondary education, he attended Grambling State University and earned a bachelor of science degree in social studies while also beginning his preaching ministry and following in the footsteps of his father, brothers, and uncle; he later attended Morehouse School of Religion at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia, where he earned a master of divinity degree; and

WHEREAS, as a young man, Dr. Martin participated in the civil rights movement; working as a civil rights activist, he joined numerous marches and demonstrations throughout the southern United States and was the only known activist from his area to have marched at the side of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; he was a fervent believer in equality and equity and continued to fight for people's rights for the rest of his life; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin was presented with an honorary doctor of divinity degree from the United Theological Seminary and Bible College in Monroe, Louisiana, in 1993; he later earned a doctor of divinity degree in 2001 from Inter-Baptist Theological Seminary in Shreveport, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin served as pastor of many Louisiana Baptist churches including Springfield Baptist Church in Gibsland, Shiloh Baptist Church in Homer, and Trenton Baptist Church in West Monroe; he served at Trenton Baptist Church for forty-seven years; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his pastoral duties, Dr. Martin served as president and moderator of Springville M. and E. Association, provost of United Theological Seminary and Bible College, and secretary of the GumSpring Association; he also served as dean and lecturer of the GumSpring Congress of Christian Education, the Twin Cities Ministerial Union, and the Louisiana Baptist Convention and National Convention; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin was incredibly philanthropic, and his efforts to give to the community earned him numerous awards and accreditations including being named to "Who's Who Among Black Americans?", receiving the Louisiana Bicentennial Commission-Certificate of Appreciation, and many more; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin was married to the love of his life, Barbara Jean Thompson of New Iberia, from 1964 until his passing; the couple had three children, Lawrence III, Perry, and Chantel; among the greatest joys in his life were his grandchildren, and he felt especially blessed to be able to baptize each of them; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin worked professionally as an educator in the public school system; he served as an instructor at Jonesville Consolidated High School and Carroll High School and was highly regarded as an eloquent, perceptive, and understanding mentor; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin leaves to cherish his legacy and memory his beloved wife of fifty-eight years, Barbara; his children, Lawrence Ray, II, and his wife Kimberly, Perry, and Chantel, and her husband Julius; his grandchildren, DeVonté, Austin, Paris, Ryan, and Justin; one great-grandson, Braxton; his brothers, Donald Martin, B.J. Martin, and his wife Barbara, and Kenneth Martin, and his wife Iris; his sister, Veronica Thomas, and her husband Winfred; his godchild, Reverend John L. Russell, II, and his wife Candice; and a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lawrence R. Martin, Sr., was a truly selfless man who was a dedicated and humble servant of God throughout his life; he will be deeply missed, but he will live on in the memories shared by those who knew and loved him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Dr. Lawrence R. Martin, Sr., and does hereby extend sincere wishes that his family, friends, and church community find comfort knowing that he is with God in Heaven.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Dr. Lawrence R. Martin.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES