

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 53

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Dr. Dana Carpenter.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the House of Representatives learned of the death on April 12, 2019, of Dr. Dana Carpenter; he was seventy-four years old; and

WHEREAS, Dana met and married the love of his life, Barbara West; left to cherish fond memories are his wife, their son, Patrick, and his wife Christa, daughter, Erin, and extended family of siblings and relatives; and

WHEREAS, Dana earned a bachelor of science degree in speech and drama and English education from Grambling State University in 1967, a master's degree in speech education from Northwestern State University in 1970, and in 1977, he earned a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction while simultaneously serving as coordinator of the English, speech, and journalism component of the Competency Based Teacher Education Program at Kansas State University; and

WHEREAS, after he acquired his doctorate, Dr. Carpenter accepted employment in 1977 at Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge as an associate professor and coordinator in the university's Communication Skills Center with responsibilities for the administration of a federally funded Title III program, and thus began a long and successful tenure at Southern University; and

WHEREAS, from 1986 to 2016, Dr. Carpenter served at Southern University in the posts of professor, director of counseling and advisement in the Junior Division, teacher quality coordinator, associate vice chancellor for enrollment management in the University College, associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, dean of the University College, director of the Dual Enrollment, Trio Programs, and COMPASS Testing, interim associate

vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, and director of Academic Outreach Programs with supervision over Upward Bound and Educational Talent Search; at the time of his passing, Dr. Carpenter was serving as the assistant to the senior associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs; prior to his duties at Southern University, Dr. Carpenter taught and served in the administrations of the Calcasieu Parish school system and Kansas State University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Carpenter was an experienced and prolific grant writer who obtained funds for tutorial and educational enrichment activities for fourth and fifth graders in learning Spanish, desktop newspaper publishing, engineering, architecture, and Louisiana culture, and he acquired grants to teach strategies to prevent substance abuse and family violence, train first-year principals and assist them with state certification, fund a dropout prevention program, and supply the components necessary for after-school and Saturday tutorial classes for students in all academic areas; a grant of more than \$500,000 also provided for a motivation and counseling program and visitation to schools; Dr. Carpenter was vigilant in his desire to improve the educational fortunes of students; and

WHEREAS, the diligent and vanguard work of Dr. Carpenter garnered much respect in the state and was recognized at the highest levels of leadership in Louisiana; in 1996, Governor Mike Foster appointed Dr. Carpenter to the Capital Area Human Service District Board as an advocate for developmental disabilities, where he served two years as board chairman; Dr. Carpenter was elected to the city of Baker school board in 1998, reelected in 2002, and served several years as president and vice president; he was appointed in 1995 to the city of Baker Economic Development Commission by Mayor Bobby Simpson; and

WHEREAS, the organizations which were proud to claim Dr. Carpenter as a member include Phi Delta Kappa; Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, of which he was a life member and served as polemarch and president; the Krewe of Camelot, Incorporated; Citizens for a Better Leland Community; Kiwanis International; the Louisiana School Board Association; the American Federation of Teachers; and the Louisiana Chapter of the Autistic Society; Dr. Carpenter was named College Teacher of the Year at Southern University in 1992, received the Outstanding Service Award in 1991 from the National Academic Advisory Association, and received an Outstanding Developmental Educator's Award for the 1989-1990 academic year; and

WHEREAS, volumes of books could not contain the vast quantity of events, awards, appointments, and works that filled the life of Dr. Dana Carpenter; he was a visionary advocate for quality education for all; he worked to promote honesty and integrity in government, was a catalyst for the resolution of critical issues faced by students, and he was fully engaged in his quest to improve the lives and enhance the economic growth of all of the citizens he served; during his career, Dr. Carpenter mentored generations of leaders; his impact will forever remain in the Baker and Scotlandville communities in the form of the Dr. Dana Carpenter Scholarship that has been established for students in the City of Baker School System in his honor.

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 Dr. Dana Carpenter and does hereby recognize and record for posterity his distinguished career of excellence and unyielding advocacy for educational equality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Representative Barbara West Carpenter.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES