A RESOLUTION

To express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Reverend Wade A. Sykes, Jr., of Alexandria.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Louisiana House of Representatives have learned of the death of Reverend Wade A. Sykes, Jr., on Tuesday, April 17, 2012, at the age of sixty-seven; and

WHEREAS, on December 24, 1944, Reverend Sykes was born to Wade A. Sykes, Sr., and Lucille Shorts Sykes, and he was raised in South Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Peabody High School in 1963, Reverend Sykes served his country with great valor and fortitude as an Army officer in the Vietnam War, earning several awards, including the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Award, United States Armed Force Award, and the Rifle and Sharpshooter Award; and

WHEREAS, on December 19, 1964, Reverend Sykes wedded his loving and caring wife of forty-seven years, Betty Sykes, with whom he had two sons, Geoffrey and Anthony; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Sykes' service to God began with his baptism at Eastern Star Baptist Church and continued when he moved to Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, where he served with grace as a deacon, senior choir member, and Sunday school teacher and superintendent; and

WHEREAS, in May of 1987, Reverend Sykes received his calling to the Gospel ministry and in February of 1990, he was elected pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, where he served with great distinction for twenty-two years; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Sykes was an active member of the Baptist community, serving as past chairman of the Interdenominational City Wide Revival Committee,
executive secretary of the Eighth District Missionary Baptist Association, central regional vice president of the Greater Louisiana Baptist Convention, and member of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A.; and

WHEREAS, in addition to retiring from Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in 2012, Reverend Sykes also retired from Central State Hospital, Camp Beauregard, and as a bus driver for the Rapides Parish School Board; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Sykes was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Clayton Sykes, and his sister, Deloris Bibbins; and

WHEREAS, left to cherish Reverend Sykes’ memory are his wife, Betty R. Sykes; two sons, Geoffrey O. Sykes and Anthony O. Sykes; nine grandchildren, six great-grandchildren; seven sisters-in-law; eight brothers-in-law; one godchild, Cindy Ann Farrow; one aunt, Alice Sykes; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Sykes’ fellow citizens mourn the loss of this beloved individual and share the grief of his family and friends upon his passing; and

WHEREAS, the legacy of Reverend Sykes will forever bring great pride and honor to the Alexandria community and to the state of Louisiana.

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 Reverend Wade A. Sykes, Jr., of Alexandria, does hereby extend enduring appreciation for his outstanding accomplishments and singular contributions during a lifetime of dedication and service to God and his family, friends, church, and community, and does hereby recognize that his legacy of kindness and compassion shall live forever in the minds and hearts of all who knew and loved him.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Reverend Wade A. Sykes, Jr.