

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 46

BY SENATOR BROOME AND REPRESENTATIVE BARROW

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of Rama C. Mohanty, PhD, and to celebrate his lifelong pursuit of world peace and understanding among individuals.

WHEREAS, it is with deep sadness that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing of this most endearing human rights advocate, Dr. Rama Mohanty, who served his fellow man by the fostering of the most precious of humankind's endeavors, that of peacemaker; and

WHEREAS, a resident of Louisiana since 1976, Dr. Mohanty established the Louisiana World Peace Day Committee in 1998, which sponsors a series of World Peace Day activities which, according to Dr. Mohanty, "are to foster love and respect for one another in the minds of people in Louisiana and around the world"; and

WHEREAS, from humble origins in Patpur, Orissa, India, Rama Mohanty was born with an insatiable thirst for knowledge; and

WHEREAS, as a young man, he obtained funds to attend high school by winning a debate on the subject of freedom; he later attended Utkal University; and

WHEREAS, with receipt of additional scholarships for his academic excellence, Dr. Mohanty obtained a masters degree at Ranchi College and later obtained a PhD degree in physics from Penn State University graduating as the youngest member of his class and finishing at the top of his class; and

WHEREAS, he became a physics professor and chaired the departments at many prestigious universities that included Morehouse College, where he became acquainted with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and with whom he shared similar beliefs in the brotherhood of man and peaceful coexistence among nations; and his academic expertise propelled him to seats on the faculty of the University of California at Berkeley, New York University, and in Baton Rouge, Southern University and A&M College and Louisiana State University and

A&M College, until his retirement from teaching in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mohanty also served as the head of Louisiana University of Medical Sciences, an organization whose purpose is to eliminate the shortage of primary care physicians and health care providers in underserved areas of the state; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, he was a catalyst in the creation of the Institute of All Nations for Advanced Studies, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation permanently chartered by the regents of the state of New York, that originated under the co-chairmanship of former United States Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg and former United Nations Ambassador Arthur S. Lall; Dr. Mohanty served as its general secretary until his death; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the Institute of All Nations for Advanced Studies adopted a resolution that World Peace Day shall be observed internationally each October first; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mohanty was moved to form the institute after witnessing religious persecution of innocents and the brutality of oppressive regimes in his native India; these events convinced him that to encourage inner peace within the individual is vital to the establishment of meaningful peace throughout all nations; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mohanty was a proactive model citizen of the world who ascertained that every human being was worthy of respect; his travels took him to many exotic locales to attend conferences and speak at international summits, all in the name of brotherly love and civility toward all races and creeds; and

WHEREAS, since 2001, the Legislature of Louisiana has annually adopted a resolution to designate October 1 as World Peace Day; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mohanty is survived by his loving wife, Anasuya; a son, Bijoy; a daughter, Lipika and her husband, Kendall Kearns; a granddaughter, Allyson M. Aladana, and an international family of brethren who mourn his passing; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rama Mohanty was a unique individual, a kind man of genuine intellect and great integrity who possessed a sincere compassion for all of mankind and who championed the cause of world peace.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the passing of Rama C. Mohanty, PhD, peacemaker and founder of the Louisiana World Peace Day Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the lifetime achievements of Dr. Rama Mohanty and celebrate his message of peace and goodwill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his widow, Mrs. Anasuya Mohanty.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES