

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5

BY SENATORS BROOME, ADLEY, ALARIO, AMEDEE, APPEL, CHABERT, CHAISSON, CHEEK, CLAITOR, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY, ERDEY, GAUTREAUX, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JACKSON, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARIONNEAUX, MARTINY, MCPHERSON, MICHOT, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MOUNT, MURRAY, NEVERS, PERRY, PETERSON, QUINN, RISER, SHAW, SMITH, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH AND WILLARD-LEWIS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of
Emmett W. Bashful, Ph. D., one of the great champions of public education and the
first chancellor of Southern University and A&M College at New Orleans,
Louisiana, SUNO, and to commend his lifetime of contributions and achievements.

WHEREAS, it is with great sadness and heavy hearts that the Legislature of
Louisiana has learned of the passing of this distinguished scholar, educator, public servant,
and community leader; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Emmett Bashful was known by his students and his contemporaries
as a mentor, a friend, a counselor, and a tremendous source of knowledge on a variety of
academic studies, in particular, political science and constitutional law; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Emmett Bashful was a consummate leader who demanded the very
best efforts from the student body and faculty of the university he helped to develop; from
its inception until SUNO became a superb urban institution of higher education; and

WHEREAS, when Dr. Bashful was first called upon by Dr. F. G. Clark to head the
expansion of the Southern University system to include SUNO, the campus consisted of a
single, unfinished building, 158 freshman students, a ten course curriculum, and a
highly-motivated faculty of fifteen; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure of twenty-eight years, SUNO grew in size and strength
from those humble beginnings to a student body of four thousand, the establishment of five
academic divisions, and an impressive standing in NCAA Division III athletics; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bashful encouraged young men and women to continue their
educational instruction whenever possible and achieve their lifelong goals, no matter what
obstacles blocked the way; he convinced young minds that higher education was the key to
opportunity in life and that hard work and diligence placed success within their grasp; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Emmett Bashful is remembered at SUNO for his tireless work ethic as a conscientious administrator, who served the system from his appointment as dean in 1959, as vice president in 1969, as chancellor in 1977, and as chancellor emeritus upon his retirement in 1987, and continued to serve in an advisory capacity until his death on February 26, 2011, at age ninety-three; and

WHEREAS, born on March 12, 1917, in Oscar, Louisiana, in Pointe Coupee Parish, and reared in Baton Rouge, Emmet Bashful attended public school, Leland College, and attained a Bachelor of Science degree from Southern University and A&M College in 1940; and

WHEREAS, his teaching career was interrupted by the call to military duty during World War II, when he was drafted into the United States Army; he served admirably in the Mediterranean Theatre of Operations; and he was honorably discharged in 1946, having attained the rank of First Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, after military service, he received a master's degree in political science and a doctoral degree in constitutional law from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; was inducted into the UIUC Alumni Hall of Fame; and was honored with an endowed professorship in the Political Science Department at SUNO that bears his name; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Emmett W. Bashful received numerous awards for his achievements in higher education that include, a leadership award from the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, a distinguished service citation from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, named an Outstanding Citizen of New Orleans by the Institute for Human Understanding, and an alumni achievement award by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bashful lent his leadership skills to various educational and philanthropic organizations such as the New Orleans Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the Salvation Army, the Greater New Orleans Foundation, the Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the Southern Institute for Education and Research, the New Orleans Public Schools Scholarship Foundation, the Southern Institute for Education and Research at Tulane University, and the National Conference for Community and Justice;

and

WHEREAS, his other distinctions include lifetime memberships in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the NAACP, and as chairman of the Southern University at New Orleans Foundation, whose annual fund-raising effort, The BASH, is his namesake; and

WHEREAS, on the campus of SUNO a portion of Robert E. Lee Boulevard is named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, as an undergraduate, he pledged Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity at Beta Sigma at Southern University in 1939, maintained very strong ties within the brotherhood for seventy years; earned its highest individual honor, the Alpha Phi Alpha Award of Merit, in 1999, and at the 103rd Anniversary Convention, the Senior Brothers' Lounge was named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Emmett W. Bashful was a gifted academic, a mentor, and a father to generations of SUNO students, who were bolstered by his motivation, and who strived to create successful lives and a better world, and for those outstanding characteristics, he shall be fondly remembered; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Emmett W. Bashful was preceded in death by his wife, Juanita Jones Bashful, and is survived by a daughter, Cornell Morgan; a granddaughter, Natasha Biggers; and a grandson, Anthony Nugent; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Emmett W. Bashful always believed that access to educational opportunities was essential to the progress of mankind, and that scholarly institutions produce highly trained and highly motivated individuals; that these are the keystones of a more democratic society; and

WHEREAS, throughout his lifetime of nearly a century, he witnessed the fruition of extraordinary advancements in academic options for minorities; he shared his years of scholarship and invaluable administrative experience with others; he proved himself to be a man of many talents, a man of his word, and a man whose dedication to learning has been a priceless gift to the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and acknowledge a lifetime of academic excellence forged by the late Dr. Emmett W. Bashful on behalf of the betterment of public education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend condolences to the family, friends, colleagues, and multitudes of former students of SUNO's first chancellor, Dr. Emmett W. Bashful, with a simple and sincere reminder that above all, "He gave you wings".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his daughter, Cornell Morgan.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES