

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 14

BY SENATOR WILLARD-LEWIS

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Deacon John B. Williams.

WHEREAS, it is with great sadness that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the death of Deacon John B. Williams, a great man of prayer, wisdom, and integrity, on April 27, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Deacon John B. Williams embodied the scriptural characteristics of a holy man of God as found in Titus 1:7-9, being trustworthy, upright, holy, disciplined, self-controlled, and a lover of good; and

WHEREAS, he served faithfully some thirty-five years in churches of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, and despite having officially retired, he continued in occasional service until he sustained a lengthy illness; and

WHEREAS, Deacon Williams' principal assignment was St. Raymond Catholic Church and, following Hurricane Katrina, St. Raymond-St. Leo the Great; and

WHEREAS, he is best remembered for his commanding voice as an eloquent and distinct proclaimer of scripture, a distinction that earned him a coveted role as gospel proclaimer for Pope John Paul's lakefront service during his visit to New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, a gifted, principled, and spirited man, Deacon Williams was a former teacher and public school principal, also having a distinguished career as a community advocate and promoter of good and active citizenship and wholesome family entertainment, while he, together with his wife of more than fifty years, Mrs. Antoinette Edinburgh Williams served as business entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, Deacon Williams was the first Director of the Office of Black Catholics of the Archdiocese of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, John Williams and his wife together were a shining light and living example of true Christian love with their hospitality, friendship, and respect for other people; and

WHEREAS, Deacon John Williams will live forever in the memories of his family, friends, and those who had the good fortune to have known him.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana that sincere condolences are hereby extended on the death of Deacon John B. Williams.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Antoinette Williams.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE