

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 14

BY SENATORS MURRAY, ADLEY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of the Rev. Matthew O'Rourke.

WHEREAS, it is with great regret and sorrow that the members of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the death of the Rev. Matthew O'Rourke; and

WHEREAS, Father O'Rourke, as he was compassionately known, entered the Josephite Fathers in 1944, was ordained in 1947, was elected acting superior of the Josephites in 1971, and was reelected in 1975; and

WHEREAS, Father O'Rourke was the founding principal and president of St. Augustine High School in New Orleans, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, he was dedicated to the mission of St. Augustine High School; and

WHEREAS, Father O'Rourke became the head of the Seventh Ward High School for African American youths through his role as a Josephite priest; and

WHEREAS, Father O'Rourke helped make the school into a premier college-preparatory school for young black men at a time when segregation laws were still in effect; and

WHEREAS, many of its alumni went on to Ivy League universities and became elected officials and other leaders in society, such as presidents of universities, actors, businessmen, and journalists; and

WHEREAS, Father O'Rourke received his bachelor's degree from Manhattan College in New York and his master's degree from Loyola University in New Orleans, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Father O'Rourke left St. Augustine High School in 1960 to take on other positions within the Josephite Order; and

WHEREAS, Father O'Rourke was elected to the General Council of the Josephites in 1960 and became vicar general in 1966; he also served as the society's director of education during this time; and

WHEREAS, he spent two years as rector at St. Joseph's Seminary in Washington, D.C., and then at St. Joseph's Manor in Baltimore; and

WHEREAS, because of his numerous accomplishments in public and private life, Father O'Rourke will be forever remembered by the people of Louisiana for his integrity, dignity, courage, and the joy he left in the hearts of all who knew him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana respectfully acknowledges with gratitude the outstanding service and many accomplishments of the Rev. Matthew O'Rourke and extends sincere sorrow and heartfelt condolences on the occasion of his death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of the Rev. Matthew O'Rourke and to St. Augustine High School.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE