

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 162

BY SENATOR CARTER

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Dr. Samuel DuBois Cook, former president of Dillard University.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana and the citizens of Louisiana have learned of the death of Samuel DuBois Cook on May 29, 2017, at the age of eighty-eight; and

WHEREAS, Samuel DuBois Cook was born in 1928 in Griffin, Georgia, received a A.B. degree from Morehouse College in 1948 and a M.A. and PhD from Ohio State University, was a Korean War veteran, and went on to teach at Southern University, Atlanta University, the University of Illinois, UCLA, and Duke University; and

WHEREAS, while at Morehouse, Dr. Cook joined the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and was also an active member of the fraternity at Atlanta University; and

WHEREAS, he was also a former ordained deacon at White Rock Baptist Church in Durham, North Carolina, and he was a longtime member of Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, in 1966, Dr. Cook was the first African-American to hold a tenured faculty appointment at Duke University, a predominately white southern college, which established the Samuel DuBois Cook Society in his honor in 1997; and

WHEREAS, President Jimmy Carter appointed Dr. Cook to the National Council on the Humanities, and President Bill Clinton appointed him to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and held honorary degrees from Morehouse College, Ohio State University, Dillard University, Illinois College, Duke University, University of New Orleans, and Chicago Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cook served as president of Dillard University from 1974 to 1997 before the university's board of trustees elected him as President Emeritus, one of only two presidents who served for over twenty years, and is credited as the intellectual genius behind the development of the university; and

WHEREAS, during his twenty-two-and-one-half-year tenure at Dillard, student enrollment increased by fifty percent, campus facilities improved, student services expanded, the number of faculty members holding doctoral degrees increased, and the university's curriculum was strengthened; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, Dr. Cook created the Dillard University National Conference on Black-Jewish Relations; and

WHEREAS, today, Dillard University has an enrollment of 1,200 and ranks second in the country in black physics undergraduates while being particularly known for its nursing program, which is the oldest in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cook is survived by Sylvia Cook, his wife of more than fifty years; Samuel DuBois Cook Jr. and Karen J. Cook; and grandchildren Alexandra Renee Cook and Samuel DuBois Cook III; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Samuel DuBois Cook was a dedicated and loving husband, father, and grandfather, an educator in the true sense of the word, an administrator, an author, a public servant in the finest sense, a civil and human rights activist, one of the legendary figures in higher education, particularly for HBCUs, and totally committed to the betterment of his fellow man.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana hereby expresses its profound condolences to the family of Dr. Samuel DuBois Cook upon the occasion of his passing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the wife of Samuel DuBois Cook, Sylvia Cook.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE