

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 169

BY SENATOR BISHOP

A RESOLUTION

To recognize the lives and legacies of Denver Smith and Leonard Brown and to honor them, posthumously, as casualties of the civil rights movement.

WHEREAS, in 1972, civil rights demonstrations were actively taking place in the city of Baton Rouge and, on the campus of Southern University, simultaneous demonstrations were ongoing over improved facilities, desired curriculum changes, faculty hires, financial allocations and efforts by students to have a more prominent role in administrative matters; and

WHEREAS, over forty-five years ago, on November 16, 1972, Denver Smith of New Roads, Louisiana, and Leonard Brown of Gilbert, Louisiana, were students at Southern University, both pursuing their junior year of studies; and

WHEREAS, after a prolonged season of demonstrations on and off the campus, a November 16, 1972, emergency call resulted in the deaths of Denver Smith and Leonard Brown as they stood innocently on campus that day, having no association with each other or the ongoing protests taking place mere yards away; and

WHEREAS, consequently, they were made innocent casualties of the inauspicious and lamentable circumstances of the era; and

WHEREAS, on May 12, 2017, Southern University awarded posthumous undergraduate degrees to these students – Denver Smith in agriculture and Leonard Brown in computer science; and

WHEREAS, the lives of their loved ones have been appreciably and permanently altered and their community left to wonder what valuable contributions they could have made.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the lives and legacies of Denver Smith and Leonard Brown and honor them, posthumously, as casualties of the civil rights movement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the families of Denver Smith and Leonard Brown.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE