

2019 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 201

BY SENATOR CARTER

COMMENDATIONS. Posthumously commends James Puckette Carter, MD for his historic contributions in the fields of medicine and nutrition.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To posthumously commend James Puckette Carter, MD for his historic contributions in the  
3 fields of medicine and nutrition.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. James Puckette "Jim" Carter was born on October 7, 1933, in  
5 Chicago, Illinois, to Ruth Puckette Carter and Dr. Morris Carter; and

6 WHEREAS, after growing up in Chicago with his sister Ruth Carter, Dr. Carter  
7 studied and received a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the College of Liberal Arts,  
8 Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, in 1954; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Carter received his Doctor of Medicine degree from Northwestern  
10 University in 1954, and subsequently received a Master of Science in Parasitology from  
11 Columbia University School of Public Health and Administrative Medicine in 1963, a  
12 Doctoral Degree in Nutrition from Columbia University School of Public Health and  
13 Administrative Medicine in 1966, and studied Zen meditation practice and Tai Chi at Loyola  
14 University, New Orleans in 1988; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Carter served his country for two years, 1966 and 1967, with the  
16 United States Navy as a research associate with the United States Naval Medical Research  
17 Unit in Cairo, Egypt; and

18 WHEREAS, from 1967 to 1976, Dr. Carter served on the Vanderbilt University

1 School of Medicine Faculty in Nashville, Tennessee, as an associate professor of nutrition  
2 and associate professor of pediatrics, being the first African-American faculty member in  
3 the Department of Pediatrics and the first full-time African-American faculty member; and

4 WHEREAS, while at Meharry Medical College and Vanderbilt University in 1968,  
5 Dr. Carter was one of only forty-four recipients in the Western Hemisphere to be awarded  
6 a prestigious five-year faculty fellowship by the Milbank Memorial Fund to obtain additional  
7 training and develop his professional career as a medical educator in the specialties of  
8 nutrition, tropical medicine, pediatrics, and related fields of study in social and preventive  
9 medicine; and

10 WHEREAS, from 1972 to 1976 Dr. Carter led the Maternal and Child Health, Family  
11 Planning Training and Research Center at the Meharry Medical College, in Nashville,  
12 Tennessee, which successfully trained countless students and health professionals from  
13 developing countries in Africa; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1976 Dr. Carter became professor and head of nutrition at the Tulane  
15 University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in New Orleans, Louisiana, where  
16 he also served as a clinical professor of pediatrics; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Carter also served as the chairman of the National Advisory  
18 Committee, Meharry Medical College's General Foods Nutrition Center, as a consultant in  
19 International Nutrition to the United States Agency for International Development, and as  
20 a nutrition consultant for the World Health Organization; and

21 WHEREAS, Dr. Carter consulted and was a guest lecturer internationally on health  
22 promotion, disease prevention, lifestyles, clinical preventive medicine, alternative medicine,  
23 and holistic health; and

24 WHEREAS, Dr. Carter was a published author of the controversial book,  
25 *Racketeering in Medicine: The Suppression of Alternatives*, which was published by  
26 Hampton Roads in 1992, and was an investigator in the National Institutes of  
27 Health – sponsored Trial to Access Chelation Therapy, presenting his findings to the  
28 American Heart Association in Los Angeles in 2012; and

29 WHEREAS, on August 29, 2005, Dr. Carter's home and office were destroyed by the  
30 devastating floods and fires caused by Hurricane Katrina; and

1           WHEREAS, as the city of New Orleans grieved over the aftermath of Hurricane  
2 Katrina, Dr. Carter never wavered from his lifelong commitment to improving the health of  
3 the people of the world and quickly resumed his practice of office-based integrative  
4 medicine as Medical Director of Complementary Medical Services in Mandeville,  
5 Louisiana; and

6           WHEREAS, Dr. Carter served as Professor Emeritus at the Tulane School of Public  
7 Health and Tropical Medicine and continued with multiple investigative, research, clinical  
8 trial, and consulting efforts, in addition to his private clinic work until his death on  
9 February 12, 2014; and

10           WHEREAS, in addition to his inextricable accomplishments in the field of medicine,  
11 upon his death Dr. Carter was remembered first and foremost as the devoted and beloved  
12 husband of Carolyn Harris-Carter, loving father of James Jr., Rebecca, and Geoffrey and his  
13 wife Sarah Carter, and cherished grandfather of Evan, Elias, and Casey Carter; and

14           WHEREAS, Dr. Carter was profoundly intelligent, but was equally regarded as a  
15 gentle, kindhearted man who loved those he served and was equally loved by everyone who  
16 knew him; and

17           WHEREAS, Dr. Carter spoke Spanish, Portuguese, and was most fluent in French,  
18 languages he put to use in meeting people around the world, as he enjoyed traveling and had  
19 visited many cities for both his work on matters of international health and for leisure; and

20           WHEREAS, Dr. Carter loved spending time with his family and friends, dancing,  
21 and listening to Brazilian jazz; and

22           WHEREAS, while Dr. Carter has been missed dearly by his family and all of his  
23 many friends, colleagues, patients, and former students, and it is with profound respect and  
24 adoration that his many groundbreaking social and medicinal accomplishments be  
25 recognized and commended posthumously as a way to respect his legacy and encourage and  
26 motivate others to strive for fulfillment of a passion to make the world a better place as Dr.  
27 Carter so successfully did in life.

28           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
29 does hereby posthumously commend James Puckette Carter, MD for his historic  
30 contributions in the fields of medicine and nutrition.

