

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 24

BY SENATOR CARTER

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Lizzie Mae Henry Charles, community activist in the Algiers Cut-Off neighborhood.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death  
3 of Lizzie Mae Henry Charles, a community activist in the Algiers Cut-Off  
4 Neighborhood of Orleans Parish, Louisiana.

5 WHEREAS, Lizzie Mae Henry was born January 12, 1936 to Clarence and Ernestine  
6 Henry of New Orleans, Louisiana, and she was the eldest of six children born to the couple;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, when Lizzie was twelve her family moved from the Seventh Ward area  
9 of New Orleans to make their home in Lower Coast Algiers, known as "the Cut-Off;" and

10 WHEREAS, Lizzie Henry was raised in the Second Baptist Church of the Algiers  
11 Cut-Off community where she was baptized and learned to love the Lord; and

12 WHEREAS, as an adult, Lizzie became a member of the Asbury United Methodist  
13 Church where she raised her children and participated in numerous church activities,  
14 including singing in the Women of Perfection Choir, Sunday school Bible classes, vacation  
15 Bible school, prayer and fasting ministry, and the Women of Asbury conferences; and

16 WHEREAS, on May 1, 1951 she married the love of her life, Hammond Charles Sr.  
17 and the couple had twelve children raising them in a Christian home filled with love and  
18 support; and

1           WHEREAS, in 1967 tragedy struck as Hammond Charles met an untimely death and  
2           at only thirty-two Lizzie Charles was left to raise her eight sons and four daughters, two of  
3           whom had physical challenges, on her own drawing strength from her work ethic, her faith  
4           in God and from the wise teachings of Norman Vincent Peale regarding "positive thinking;"  
5           and

6           WHEREAS, Lizzie created a loving and faithful home for her children and with her  
7           leadership and example, she and her children deepened their commitment to their  
8           community and found opportunities to give back to that community in many ways; and

9           WHEREAS, all of the couple's children took part in athletics, or pageantry, or  
10          political activism and religion, based on the strong foundation laid by Lizzie and Hammond  
11          before his death; and

12          WHEREAS, Mrs. Charles began her work career as a domestic worker and house  
13          manager and subsequently she sought employment with the Orleans Parish School Board,  
14          first in food service at Murray Henderson Elementary School and, later, as a transportation  
15          monitor; and

16          WHEREAS, Lizzie Charles worked as an election poll worker for many years,  
17          stationed at the Cut-Off Recreation Center, where she became a fixture, greeting everyone  
18          with her beautiful smile; and

19          WHEREAS, Lizzie Mae Henry Charles was a well-known community activist who  
20          worked tirelessly to bring paved streets, lighting, and better schools to the area of Algiers  
21          Cut Off, the second oldest neighborhood in the city; and

22          WHEREAS, Mrs. Charles was instrumental in the integration of the Orleans Parish  
23          school system, including McDonogh 45 Elementary School, Edna Karr Junior High School  
24          (later a high school only), and O. Perry Walker High School; and

25          WHEREAS, Lizzie Charles was committed to improving the quality of education,  
26          particularly for those minority children living in the Algiers, Gretna, and McDonogh areas  
27          of the West Bank of New Orleans; and

28          WHEREAS, during the years of the struggle for school integration, Lizzie Charles  
29          was focused on the rights of minority students in the context of district-wide school  
30          integration; and

1           WHEREAS, Lizzie Charles worked with the Cut-Off playground booster club for  
2 years and was committed to providing a safe outdoor space for children living in crowded,  
3 and sometimes blighted, areas of the West Bank; and

4           WHEREAS, Lizzie Charles became the president of the Friends of Charity  
5 Benevolent Society Association, where she worked to provide the best service possible for  
6 the association's members; and

7           WHEREAS, Mrs. Charles worked tirelessly within her church and her community  
8 working to bring a better way of life to those who lived on the West Bank of New Orleans,  
9 particularly Algiers Cut-Off, and has been said to have been a voice for the voiceless during  
10 trying times for her community; and

11           WHEREAS, Lizzie was ever the life of the party and was not bothered to be the first  
12 on the dance floor when one of her favorite songs was being played; and

13           WHEREAS, Mrs. Charles had many interests, but her greatest passion was for her  
14 family; her children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews were all the fortunate recipients of  
15 her love and the joy that she brought to the life she lived; and

16           WHEREAS, Lizzie Mae Henry Charles was a devoted follower of Christ, a  
17 passionate and energetic member of Asbury Methodist Church, the inspiring mother of  
18 twelve children whom she raised largely alone after her husband's death, a tireless  
19 community activist, working for the children of the West Bank to assure their access to good  
20 integrated public schools, and a loving matriarch to a grateful family.

21           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
22 does hereby express sincere condolences upon the death of Lizzie Mae Henry Charles, a  
23 community activist in the Algiers Cut-Off Neighborhood of Orleans Parish, Louisiana.

24           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Cubie  
25 Charles, daughter of Mrs. Lizzie Charles on behalf of the family.

---

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

---

DIGEST

SR 24 Original

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

Carter

Expresses condolences upon the death of Lizzie Mae Henry Charles, a community activist  
in the Algiers Cut-Off Neighborhood of Orleans Parish, Louisiana.