

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Audrey Mae Caudgest Simon, native of New Orleans, Louisiana, and a long-time resident of Lafayette, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Audrey Mae Caudgest was born in New Orleans on August 1, 1933, to Hester and Thomas Caudgest and she died on January 25, 2020, with her family by her side in Eules, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Audrey Caudgest was a graduate of H. C. Ross High School, an historic school that opened its doors in 1893, in Crowley, Louisiana, and she went on to study at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, earning a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, Audrey Caudgest married her sweetheart, Clifton Maurice Simon, and the couple had one child, a daughter, Vannessa; and

WHEREAS, continuing her education while maintaining her commitment to her family and her students, Audrey Simon earned fifty postgraduate education hours at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Simon's teaching career began in 1955 in Tensas Parish and she went on to devote thirty years to the students of Westside Elementary School in Scott, Louisiana, before retiring from the Lafayette Parish School System as an award-winning remedial reading specialist, having been recognized for her efforts, especially in working with those struggling to master the task of reading; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, Mrs. Simon became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and she served in several capacities in the Lafayette Alumnae Chapter, including president from 1970 to 1975; and

WHEREAS, after retirement from her formal teaching career, in 1988, Audrey Simon began her second career as a VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) volunteer for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Acadiana, where she served as program director of Empower II and as program director of the Foster Grandparent Program; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, the Lafayette Mayor's Commission on the Needs of Women named Audrey Simon as one of the "Women of Excellence"; and

WHEREAS, from 1999 to 2005, Mrs. Simon worked as director of ministries at her church, Progressive Baptist Church in Lafayette; and

WHEREAS, also a focus of her life wherever Audrey Simon lived was her church, beginning with Jefferson Baptist Church in Crowley where she was baptized, and this work with her church was paramount in her life; and

WHEREAS, as an adult, Audrey Simon was unrelenting in her efforts to spread love and the teachings of Christ through work in her local church, first at Progressive Baptist Church in Lafayette, Christ Memorial Community Church in Hurst, Texas, and at St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Eules, Texas, her final church home; and

WHEREAS, after residing in Lafayette for more than forty years, Audrey and Clifton Simon moved to Hurst, Texas, to be near their daughter and her family; and

WHEREAS, Audrey Caudgest Simon leaves to cherish her memory, her devoted husband of sixty-six years, Clifton Maurice Simon; her daughter and son-in-law, Vanessa and Charles Nickson and their two sons, D'Andre Maurice Mullen and Jamal Keith Nickson; and many other family members and friends; and

WHEREAS, Audrey Simon's life was one of love and service, to her husband and daughter, her faith, her students, and her community, all benefitting from her tireless efforts to improve the world into which she was born.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere condolences upon the death of Audrey Mae Caudgest Simon, native of New Orleans, Louisiana, and a long-time resident of Lafayette, Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Clifton Simon.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE