

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 84

BY SENATOR MILKOVICH

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Rev. Dr. Henry Dee Smith Jr.

WHEREAS, Smith, known widely as "H. D.", died peacefully surrounded by his family on March 28, 2016, in Fairhope, Alabama, bringing to a close a nearly sixty-five year commitment to serve the Lord and to preach the word of God; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith was born to LouElla Arant and Henry Dee Smith in a farmhouse on the banks of the Quiver River in Leflore County, Mississippi, on September 3, 1927; and

WHEREAS, at the age of sixteen, H. D. enrolled in the University of Mississippi and he remained a Rebel fan his entire life; and

WHEREAS, however, after one year on campus, World War II interrupted H. D.'s education and he enlisted in the United States Army in 1944 and served in Guam in the Pacific Theater until 1945; and

WHEREAS, upon returning home from the war, H. D. met and married his life-long sweetheart, Ella Ruth Gore on January 15, 1948, and they began a life of love and devotion until Ella's death in 2011; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, H. D. was ordained by his home church in Schlater, Mississippi, and he later enrolled in Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi, where he graduated with special distinction with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion; and

WHEREAS, H. D. Smith Jr. continued his education and received both a Bachelor of Divinity and a Doctor of Theology from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and he and Ruth embarked on his career of serving the Lord in his church; and

WHEREAS, H. D. and Ruth raised five children, two sons: Joseph and Timothy, and three daughters: Rebecca, Rachel, and Deana, with Joseph and Timothy both following their father into the ministry; and

WHEREAS, Smith and his wife were dedicated to their family and both enjoyed family gatherings and spending time together with all their children, their spouses and children and, eventually, their eighteen grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, H. D. and Ruth treasured their family and especially enjoyed sharing family dinners, watching western movies and football before the fire; and

WHEREAS, H. D.'s career in the ministry took the family to numerous churches including Doddsville, Blaine, Forest and Ellison Road Baptist churches in Mississippi; Florida Avenue, Trinity, Barksdale, Gentilly, Lakeshore, Western Hills and Grace Baptist churches in Louisiana; and First Baptist Satsuma in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, H. D. loved his Lord, preaching the gospel in his church settings, and the twenty-six mission trips he and Ruth embarked upon to Korea, India, Jamaica, Brazil, Mexico and Phillipines; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his preaching career, Smith brought countless souls to a personal relationship with their Savior and the members of his churches in the deep south would testify to his pastoring gifts and to his having brought a fresh mission awareness to their fellowship; and

WHEREAS, throughout his ministry, Smith loved the people that God placed in his care and he had a great passion for evangelism that did not fade as he got older and naturally slowed down his preaching activities; and

WHEREAS, Smith died with his family around him and he left them to celebrate his life and remarkable commitment to preaching the Gospel.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere condolences upon the death of Rev. Dr. Henry Dee Smith Jr.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Henry Dee Smith Jr.'s sons Rev. Timothy Smith and Rev. Joseph Smith.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE