

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 109

BY REPRESENTATIVE BURRELL

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences upon the death of Alphonse Jackson, Jr., former state representative and a founding member of the La. Legislative Black Caucus

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Alphonse Jackson, Jr.,
3 former state representative and founding member of the Louisiana Legislative Black
4 Caucus.

5 WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the
6 Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the death of former state representative Alphonse
7 Jackson, Jr. on Tuesday, December 23, 2014, at the age of eighty-seven; and

8 WHEREAS, born on November 27, 1927, in Shreveport, Alphonse Jackson, Jr. was
9 the son of the late Alphonse Jackson, Sr. and Mattie P. (Beaner) Jackson and was a widely
10 respected, admired, and beloved citizen of Louisiana; an intelligent and hard-working child
11 who excelled academically, Mr. Jackson spent summers working on his grandfather's farm
12 in Forbing and honed his entrepreneurial skills in Shady Grove at Beaner's Grocery and his
13 father's Phillips 66 Friendly Service Station; and

14 WHEREAS, after graduating from Central High School, Mr. Jackson attended
15 Southern University in Baton Rouge, where he was initiated into the Beta Sigma Chapter of
16 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; shortly after signing up for selective service, he was
17 drafted into the United States Army and served his country with valor both during and after
18 World War II; he was among the military personnel deployed to Hiroshima and Nagasaki
19 to engage in atomic cleanup operations; and

20 WHEREAS, following his honorable discharge from the Army, Mr. Jackson returned
21 to Southern University and earned a bachelor of arts degree in social studies, graduating with

1 honors in 1951; he matriculated to New York University, where he earned a master of arts
2 degree in secondary education administration; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson began his professional career as a social studies and
4 English teacher at his alma mater, Central High School; later he became chair of the school's
5 social sciences department and eventually its principal; during his eighteen years as an
6 administrator, he also served as principal of Judson Elementary School; he was among the
7 first African American principals to be assigned to a predominantly white school during
8 desegregation in Caddo Parish, and in recognition of his excellence as an educator, he was
9 recognized as the Caddo Educator of the Year in 1960; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1962, Mr. Jackson received the Citizenship Education Award for
11 Civil Rights Leadership from the Louisiana Education Association (LEA) for his efforts to
12 promote equal educational opportunity and was later elected as the LEA president; in the
13 early 1970s, he was appointed to the Biracial Committee and continued his work on
14 desegregating Caddo schools and ending de jure segregation; President Richard Nixon and
15 the National Education Association sought his guidance on desegregation interventions and
16 successful educational strategies; and

17 WHEREAS, it was Mr. Jackson's passion for education that inspired his political
18 advocacy, and in 1972, he began his long and distinguished term of service in the Louisiana
19 House of Representatives as the first black legislator elected from Caddo Parish since
20 Reconstruction; during his tenure in the House, which spanned from 1972 until 1992, he
21 used every opportunity as an able and productive legislator to serve this state in an honorable
22 and dedicated manner; he served diligently on several committees, including as the chairman
23 of the House Committee on Health and Welfare and as a member of the House committees
24 on Appropriations, Education, and Judiciary; and

25 WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson was elected as a delegate to the Louisiana Constitutional
26 Convention of 1973, and as chairman of the Committee on Bill of Rights and Elections, he
27 worked with other delegates to craft the Louisiana Constitution of 1974; in 1977, he was one
28 of ten founding members of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus and ultimately served
29 with distinction as the dean of the caucus; and

1 WHEREAS, in the private sector, Mr. Jackson was president of Jackson, Nicholson
2 and Associates, where he coordinated political campaigns and planned public relations and
3 marketing programs, and after his departure from the legislature, he worked as a public
4 affairs consultant for the Hurst Group, a public relations and government affairs firm; and

5 WHEREAS, throughout his life, Mr. Jackson was active in his Baptist faith; he was
6 baptized at the Springfield Baptist Church and later united with the Avenue Baptist Church,
7 where he taught Sunday school; in later years, he united with the Zion Baptist Church until
8 he became a member of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson lent his time and service to several organizations, including
10 as a former member and past president of the Delta Upsilon Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi
11 Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and as a Life Member of the National Association for the
12 Advancement of Colored People and the LEA; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson was recognized on numerous occasions for his singular
14 contributions and accomplishments, including having the Alphonse Jackson, Jr. Early
15 Childhood Center in Shreveport named in his honor, receiving the Friend of Education
16 Award from the Louisiana Association of Educators, and being designated by *The*
17 *Shreveport Times* as one of most influential people of Northwest Louisiana in the twentieth
18 century; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson was the kind of citizen who represents what is good about
20 Louisiana, a man of wisdom who used his talents, integrity, and passion for his home state
21 to change Louisiana for the better; he was a distinguished member, as Tom Brokaw wrote
22 in his book, *The Greatest Generation*, of "a generation that, by and large, made no demands
23 of homage from those who followed and prospered economically, politically, and culturally
24 because of its sacrifices ... a generation of towering achievement and modest demeanor ...
25 the greatest generation any society has ever produced"; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson is survived by his wife of twenty-one years, Glenda Hurst
27 Jackson; his daughters, former state legislator Lydia P. Jackson and Angela E. Jackson; his
28 stepdaughter, Andrea M. Archie; his grandson, Jacobi D. Glenn; his sister, Olive "Ollie"
29 Gibson; his father-in-law, Norbert Hurst; his former wife, Rubye H. Jackson, the mother of
30 Lydia and Angela; two goddaughters, Kelesha T. Martin, and Sallie Singleton; and numerous

1 nieces and nephews who loved their "Uncle Jack"; he was preceded in death by his
2 grandparents, Anola and Sam Beaner; his parents, Mattie and Alphonse Jackson, Sr.; his
3 brother, Samuel L. Jackson; his sisters, Shirley Jackson Minor and Gloria G. Jackson; and
4 his stepson, James R. Archie II; and

5 WHEREAS, with the death of Mr. Jackson, the state has lost one of her finest sons,
6 a man who has left an indelible mark on the minds and hearts of all who knew and loved
7 him, including the members of the House family, all of whom mourn the loss of this
8 wonderful man who served this institution, this state, and his nation so well; he leaves a rich
9 and unique legacy and is greatly missed by all whose lives he touched through his
10 unwavering dedication to public service and to his fellow citizens.

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
12 express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Alphonse Jackson, Jr., former
13 state representative and founding member of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, does
14 hereby recognize and record for posterity his notable accomplishments and singular
15 contributions during his twenty-year tenure as a distinguished member of the Louisiana
16 House of Representatives, and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the pride and
17 honor that this wonderful man will forever bring to his family, his community, his state, and
18 the United States of America.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
20 to the family of Alphonse Jackson, Jr.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 109 Original

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Burrell

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