

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 265

BY SENATORS PETERSON, BISHOP, CARTER, DONAHUE, FANNIN, MORRELL,  
RISER, TARVER AND WALSWORTH

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of Jennifer Ashley Mitchell Carter upon her death.

WHEREAS, Jennifer Ashley Mitchell Carter, was born and reared in Shreveport, Louisiana, where she graduated from Caddo Parish Magnet High School in 2003; and

WHEREAS, she was the daughter of Jennifer Gail Walker Mitchell and James "JB" Mitchell; and

WHEREAS, her mother shared this beautiful soul with the rest of the world, and imparted in her a strong work ethic, her love for God and passion for people; and

WHEREAS, she was a devoted child of God, a loyal family member and friend; and

WHEREAS, she was a 2007 honor graduate of Louisiana State University College of Arts and Sciences where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science; and

WHEREAS, she was a 2011 honor graduate of Southern University Nelson Mandela School of Public Policy where she earned a Master of Social Sciences in Political Science; and

WHEREAS, she earned a Juris Doctor at Southern University Law Center in 2011; and

WHEREAS, she became a certified mediator by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service in 2009; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 2010, she was a law clerk for Black Entertainment Television Network and Viacom in the department of Business & Legal Affairs; and

WHEREAS, she held the position of law clerk/student intern for the United States District Court, Middle District of Louisiana with Judge James J. Brady; the United States Senate, Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship with Senator Mary L. Landrieu; Office of the Governor, under the Assistant Chief of Staff; the Louisiana State Senate, Chief

of Staff Office with Jerry Guillot; and

WHEREAS, she served as a student mediator in the Southern University Law Center Mediation Clinic, where she mediated several disputes including foreclosures, landlord/tenant disputes, and consumer complaints; and

WHEREAS, she worked as a researcher in the office of Governor Kathleen Blanco, a law clerk for the Louisiana State Senate; she was the youngest Executive Director of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus and Executive Director of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Ashley served as the attorney for the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs and the Select Committee on Women And Children under the tutelage of senior attorney, Tim Prather; and

WHEREAS, Ashley's drafting skills and knowledge of legislative law and procedure exceeded her years of experience and made her an asset to the Louisiana Senate; she was considered a joy to work with by legislators, lobbyists, her supervisors, and her fellow staff members; and

WHEREAS, she also served as support staff for the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus; and

WHEREAS, it was important for Ashley to glean from those who paved the way for her, and she was supported by a host of mentors which included but are not limited to Yolanda Dixon, Cynthia Reed, Don Cravins Jr., Johnny Anderson, Edwin Murray (former state Senator), Lydia P. Jackson (former state Senator), Markey Pierre, Mayor Sharon Weston Broome, Alejandro Perkins, Representative Edward "Ted" James, Maxine Cormier, who she affectionately call her second mom, and Senator Karen Carter Peterson; and

WHEREAS, during her time at the state capitol she was mentored by Senator Karen Carter Peterson; and

WHEREAS, this relationship turned more into a familial bond/sisterhood; and

WHEREAS, Ashley was one of the co-captains of the group of supporters for Senator Peterson affectionately known as "Team KCP"; and

WHEREAS, under the tutelage of Senator Peterson, Ashley continued to learn and soar and became a guiding light at the Louisiana State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, she was a founding partner at the law firm of Pearson & Mitchell, LLC;  
and

WHEREAS, her practice focused on intellectual property, contract negotiations,  
family law, wills, successions, business and foundation formation; and

WHEREAS, she was a member of many legal organizations such as the American  
Bar Association, Louisiana State Bar Association, Baton Rouge Bar Association, and Louis  
A. Martinet Legal Society; and

WHEREAS, she was an Adjunct Professor of Advanced Legal Writing at Southern  
University Law Center; and

WHEREAS, she was an Instructor at Baton Rouge Community College in 2015,  
where she taught several classes including Economic Development and Workforce  
Solutions; and

WHEREAS, Ashley became the Director of Government Affairs with the University  
of Louisiana System in 2018, under the direction of Dr. Jim Henderson; and

WHEREAS, she was heavily involved in her community and had a heart for the  
people; and

WHEREAS, no matter how successful she became, she never forgot where she came  
from as evidenced by her yearly trips back home to Shreveport to give out turkeys to the  
needy during the holiday season; and

WHEREAS, she was involved in a wide array of ventures and organizations such as  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Walker's Legacy; Junior League of Greater Baton Rouge  
and other endeavors in business, church, and community; and

WHEREAS, as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., she participated in the  
constructive development of her fellow members and to public service through the sorority's  
many initiatives; and

WHEREAS, she was a member of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church of  
Shreveport under the spiritual leadership of Dr. Theron Jackson, Pastor, and while in Baton  
Rouge, she served as a member of New Gideon Baptist Church under the spiritual leadership  
of Pastor Brandon D. Collins, where she served with her sisters in Christ as the Director of  
the Liturgical Dance Ministry; and

WHEREAS, she married the love of her life, Charles Carter Jr., on June 28, 2014;  
and

WHEREAS, she gained a new family in the form of Carter's parents, Betty and Charles Carter Sr.; and

WHEREAS, during this union they enjoyed traveling, hosting friends and family at their home, sharing genuine love, and the building of a bright future together as evidenced by their many entrepreneurial endeavors, which included real estate and Carter Sweet Treats;  
and

WHEREAS, also during this union, Ashley heavily supported Carter and his childhood friends with their nonprofit organization "Reaching Our Dreams Foundation"; and

WHEREAS, Ashley played an intricate role in many of the community outreach efforts of "Reaching Our Dreams Foundation" such as their annual Thanksgiving turkey giveaway in both Baton Rouge and her hometown of Shreveport; their annual back-to-school initiative which gave school supplies to underprivileged students, hosting giveaways, and adopting less fortunate families during the Christmas holiday season; and

WHEREAS, Ashley went to be with the Lord on May 27, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the pain of her passing is amplified by the fact that she was with child;  
and

WHEREAS, she had a heart of gold and a smile that was a glowing sunrise that uplifted everyone she encountered; and

WHEREAS, her favorite greeting was "Hello, Sunshine" which was reflective of the energy that emitted from her at all times; and

WHEREAS, Mencius said, "Friends are the siblings God never gave us"; and

WHEREAS, Ashley was a friend to many people, who ended up accepting her as family; and

WHEREAS, it was inevitable when you encountered her infectious aura that you knew you had encountered an amazing individual with a beautiful heart; and

WHEREAS, she had a passion for Louisiana, from the food to the culture and most importantly, the people; and

WHEREAS, she was a wondrous combination of perseverance, self-belief, strength,

curiosity, humanity and compassion; and

WHEREAS, her family has established a scholarship fund to commemorate her life, work, and service, and this scholarship will be awarded to law students who share and uphold the same values and possess the same qualities that Ashley possessed; and

WHEREAS, grief shall fill the many hearts that have encountered this amazing spirit; solace must be found in the fact that she was a believer and accepted the Lord in her life at an early age; and

WHEREAS, Ashley is survived by her parents, siblings, and her husband, Charles Carter.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deepest and most profound condolences to the family of Jennifer Ashley Mitchell Carter for their immeasurable loss and wish to recognize her for her service to the community, the state of Louisiana, and her fellow man.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Jennifer Ashley Mitchell Carter.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE