

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 54

BY SENATORS BARROW, ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BERNARD, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CORTEZ, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, JOHNS, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MORRIS, PEACOCK, PETERSON, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, TALBOT, WARD AND WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

To recognize and express condolences upon the deaths of Feaster Dorsey and Lawrence "Pookie" Jones Jr.

WHEREAS, Feaster Dorsey grew up in White Castle, Louisiana, and came of age in the 1950s, when opportunities for African Americans were scarce, but was determined to make something of himself; and

WHEREAS, he joined the United States Air Force, served his country overseas, and later moved to Baton Rouge, where he earned two degrees from Southern University, and soon became a father; and

WHEREAS, Feaster Dorsey started his teaching career, left the field to become an insurance salesman, then returned decades later as a middle school teacher and coach; and

WHEREAS, he died from Coronavirus at age eighty-three, less than twenty-four hours after his stepson, Lawrence "Pookie" Jones Jr., died from the same disease at the same hospital, receiving care from the same doctors and nurses; and

WHEREAS, when Feaster Dorsey started feeling sick at the beginning of March, relatives attributed his symptoms to existing medical conditions, including high blood pressure and Parkinson's disease; however after testing positive for Coronavirus, he was ultimately hospitalized about two weeks before his death and spent his birthday in a hospital bed, fighting for his life, before passing on April 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence "Pookie" Jones Jr., was age thirty-nine at the time of his passing, making him one of the youngest people to die from Coronavirus in the Baton Rouge area at the time; and

WHEREAS, Feaster and Pookie belonged to a large extended family rooted in and around Gonzales, Louisiana, who were devastated by the events, but surviving loved ones were unable to perform the usual mourning rituals; and

WHEREAS, Pookie Jones, who had been living with his mom and stepdad in recent months, started experiencing symptoms, also, though he did have underlying health conditions but none serious enough to prevent him from working full-time and living a normal productive life, and his condition declined rapidly and he died on April 8, 2020.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize and express condolences upon the death of Feaster Dorsey and Lawrence "Pookie" Jones Jr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE