



# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## REP. CHARLES HUDSON DIES

State Rep. Charles I. Hudson, D-Opelousas, died unexpectedly this morning in Baton Rouge. Hudson, a state representative since 1992, was 72. "Doc", as he was known to his friends and colleagues around the Capitol, served House District 40, which includes the communities of Grand Coteau, Opelousas, Sunset and Washington.

Speaker Joe Salter said, "I know I speak on behalf of the entire House when I say we were devastated to learn of the very unexpected and untimely death of Rep. Hudson. Doc Hudson was a champion of quality education for all students. I served with him on the House Education Committee and saw first hand his dedication and tireless work to improve our education system and close the achievement gap. To him, the children always came first. They and this state have lost a true champion and he will be sorely missed. Today, we have lost more than a colleague, we have lost a friend. My thoughts and my prayers are with his family during this very difficult time."

A graduate of McKinley High School, Hudson was considered an expert in the field of education. He held a B.S. from Grambling State University, an M.S. from Ohio State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Houston. All degrees are in the field of education. He authored publications on education with a focus on strategies for teaching mathematics.

**(more)**

## **add one - Rep. Hudson**

He also supported drainage and road improvements, higher teacher and school employees pay, and agriculture and economic development issues. He helped secure funding for municipal improvements throughout St. Landry Parish.

Rep. Hudson received national attention in 1999 when he authored legislation requiring students to show respect to teachers and school personnel by addressing them courteously using the terms “ma’am” and “sir”. At that time he said his bill was “not about enforcement but about providing an opportunity to remind all of us to practice what we preach. There is a great decline in respect or the practice of respect across our nation. The emphasis of this bill is to develop good habits of civility and courtesy.”

Rep. Hudson was vice chairman of the House Education Committee and also served on the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, and the Appropriations and Agriculture committees.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

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