

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 265

BY REPRESENTATIVES GLOVER, BAGLEY, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, PHELPS,
PRESSLY, AND SEABAUGH

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Ascension Smith, founding principal of Caddo Parish
Magnet High School, on her accomplishments

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Ascension Smith, founding principal of Caddo Parish Magnet High School,
3 on her accomplishments.

4 WHEREAS, it is most fitting to recognize Ascension Smith, founding principal of
5 Caddo Parish Magnet High School, and to commend her for maintaining the school's
6 academic excellence for more than four decades; and

7 WHEREAS, on February 7, 1979, the Caddo Parish School Board approved the plans
8 for the creation of a parish-wide magnet school whose curriculum would revolve around
9 academics and the arts; in November of that year, Ms. Smith was chosen to spearhead the
10 development of the school; and

11 WHEREAS, as a native of Spain with wide exposure to many different cultures, she
12 possessed a great appreciation for the transformative power of education which she
13 combined with the American zeal for democracy and competition during her tenure as
14 principal; and

15 WHEREAS, Ms. Smith used brochures and slide presentations to recruit prospective
16 students from all Caddo Parish public, private, and parochial middle and high schools; she
17 also employed her seemingly inexhaustible supply of energy and enthusiasm to go door-to-
18 door in neighborhoods around the parish to introduce herself, describe the school, and
19 establish a rapport with the community; and

1 WHEREAS, Ms. Smith personally selected her thirty-two member teaching staff
2 from over four hundred applicants and chose an additional seven part-time professionals
3 from the community to teach courses such as gymnastics, ballet, drama, and architecture;
4 the school's second principal, Mary Rounds, was a member of the original faculty; and

5 WHEREAS, Ms. Smith accepted six hundred ninth and tenth grade students out of
6 the nine hundred student applicants to attend Caddo Parish Magnet High School and
7 personally welcomed each of them on the day of the school's opening in August 1980; each
8 school year saw a new freshman class added, and within two years, Caddo Parish Magnet
9 High School offered a full four-year program; and

10 WHEREAS, Ms. Smith's incredible dedication and hard work resulted in Caddo
11 Parish Magnet High School becoming fully accredited by the Southern Association of
12 Colleges and Schools in 1983; the school maintains its four-year program status, and its
13 enrollment fluctuates between one thousand and one thousand two hundred fifty students;
14 the school consistently ranks among the top high schools in Louisiana, and *U.S. News &*
15 *World Report* ranked it as the seventh-best high school in Louisiana for the 2021-2022
16 school year; and

17 WHEREAS, Ms. Ascension Smith is a truly incredible leader, and she is most
18 deserving of the highest recognition for overseeing the creation and growth of Caddo Parish
19 Magnet High School and building a secured foundation for the school's continued success.

20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
21 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Ascension Smith, founding principal of
22 Caddo Parish Magnet High School, on her accomplishments and does hereby extend
23 sincerest wishes that she continue to enjoy good health and prosperity in her retirement.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
25 Ascension Smith.

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)]

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