

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 244

BY REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Peabody Magnet High School and the graduating classes from 1970 to 1979

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Peabody Magnet High School and the graduating classes from 1970 to 1979.

3 WHEREAS, Peabody Magnet High School was founded as "Peabody Industrial
4 School" by J.B. Lafargue and his wife, S.C.B. Mayo Lafargue, in 1895; at the time of its
5 opening, it was the only public school for black students in first through seventh grades in
6 Alexandria, Louisiana; and

7 WHEREAS, the name "Peabody" was chosen because of the grant given for the
8 school's construction by the George Peabody Foundation; the first school was housed in a
9 wooden two-story hospital building located at the current site of Peabody Sixth Grade Center
10 on Third and Bogan Streets; in 1918, the school added eighth and ninth grades despite the
11 U.S. Department of Education's refusal to approve the upper grades in African American
12 schools; and

13 WHEREAS, Peabody experienced considerable growth in the following decades
14 including the completion of a new, three-story school building and accompanying
15 auditorium in 1925 and the addition of two grades in 1930; the school became "Peabody
16 Training School" in 1931, after the Louisiana Department of Education sent Beatrice
17 Wallace Spottsville to serve as a teacher trainer and supervisor; Peabody was recognized as
18 a state-approved public high school in 1933; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Lafargue continued to serve as Peabody's principal until his
20 retirement in 1937; afterwards, former Peabody Training School student, D.F. Iles took the
21 school's helm and served until 1972; Samuel McKay, a distinguished chemistry teacher and

1 community leader, served as the next principal, from 1972 until 1981; under Principal
2 McKay, the school received its current name, Peabody Magnet High School; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. James Cleveland became the second principal of Peabody Magnet
4 High School in November 1981; under his leadership, the school's curriculum was improved
5 with the addition of the LD program, vocational programs, building trades, horticulture, and
6 the honors computer-based classes; following his retirement in 1987, Clayton P. Williams
7 took over as principal before resigning in 1991; and

8 WHEREAS, Dennis Frazier was chosen as the principal of Peabody Magnet in 1991;
9 he focused his efforts primarily on securing the construction of a new school building, and
10 on November 3, 1998, voters approved a bond to fund the construction of a new, two-story
11 Peabody Magnet High School at its current Broadway site; and

12 WHEREAS, Peabody Magnet High School selected 1968 alumni Peggie L. Davis
13 as the school's principal following Principal Frazier's retirement in 1998; she took on the
14 responsibility of overseeing the new school building's construction, which was completed
15 in November 2000; in October 2001, Lee A. Dotson, Jr., accepted the principal position at
16 Peabody Magnet; he was followed by Jamie Henegan, who was succeeded by the school's
17 current principal, Dennis Stewart; and

18 WHEREAS, Peabody Magnet High School is a truly inspiring educational institution
19 that has served the state of Louisiana for more than a century, and both the school and
20 graduating classes from 1970 to 1979 are most deserving of the highest recognition.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
22 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Peabody Magnet High School and the
23 graduating classes from 1970 to 1979 and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that the
24 school continue to prosper for many years to come.

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)]

HR 244 Original

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