

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 114

BY REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Gloria Mae Bryant-Banks on the occasion of her
ninetieth birthday

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Gloria Mae Bryant-Banks on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday.

3 WHEREAS, Gloria Mae Bryant-Banks was born to Eugene and Ethel Barnes Bryant;
4 she was raised in a Christian home in Central City New Orleans and began her education at
5 Thomy Lafon Elementary School in the Orleans Parish Public School System; and

6 WHEREAS, Gloria attended Gilbert Academy High School for her freshman year,
7 after which she transferred to Gaudet Episcopal High School, where she graduated as
8 valedictorian of her class in 1952; and

9 WHEREAS, after receiving her diploma, Gloria received a scholarship from the New
10 Orleans Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, to continue her
11 studies at Dillard University, where she completed her degree program early and graduated
12 in 1956; and

13 WHEREAS, Gloria began graduate studies at the Atlanta University School of Social
14 Work before returning to New Orleans to continue her studies at the Tulane University
15 School of Social Work in the fall semester of 1963; in June 1964, she received a Master of
16 Social Work degree and became the first black student to graduate from Tulane University;
17 she further added to her social work credentials by obtaining certification from the Academy
18 of Certified Social Workers and by becoming a board-certified social worker; and

19 WHEREAS, Ms. Bryant-Banks dedicated the entirety of her professional career in
20 service to the state of Louisiana; she began as a trainee of the formerly-named Department
21 of Social Services, and thirty-six years later, she retired as the secretary for the Department

1 of Children and Family Services; during her inspiring career, she served as the only black
2 woman, and one of only two women, in Governor Edwin Edwards's cabinet; she was also
3 recognized in 2022 by the Tulane University School of Social Work as a trailblazer for her
4 roll in creating a more inclusive and diverse academic community at Tulane; and

5 WHEREAS, outside of her astonishing professional life, Gloria is a seventy-year
6 member of the Beta Gamma Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated; she is a
7 member of the New Orleans Alumnae Chapter and has served the organization at the local,
8 regional, and national levels; she is recognized for using her immense knowledge and
9 experience to help create the organization's book on protocol and traditions; and

10 WHEREAS, Ms. Bryant-Banks is the proud mother of two sons, Jay H. Banks and
11 Gralen Bryant-Banks, and she is a doting grandmother and great-grandmother; she is a
12 lifelong member of New Zion Baptist Church, and she currently serves as a trustee and
13 president of the Trojan's Ministry; she served her church as a teacher and lecturer at the
14 local, state, and national levels of the Women's Auxiliary of the National Baptist
15 Convention; and

16 WHEREAS, Gloria Bryant-Banks is a truly inspiring woman who is most deserving
17 of the highest recognition for her outstanding achievements in the field of social work and
18 for her incredible civic involvement throughout her life.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
20 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Gloria Mae Bryant-Banks on the occasion
21 of her ninetieth birthday and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that she continue to
22 prosper in all of her endeavors and enjoy good health 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 114 Original

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Newell

Commends Gloria Mae Bryant-Banks on the occasion of her 90th birthday.