

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 32

BY REPRESENTATIVE WALTERS

A RESOLUTION

To commend Shirley Wills, the first African American woman elected to the Caddo Parish Police Jury, for her exemplary leadership and service to Caddo Parish.

WHEREAS, it is most fitting to recognize Shirley Wills for her status as the first African American woman to be elected to serve on the Caddo Parish Police Jury and to commend her dedicated service to Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wills was sworn in as the first African American elected to serve on the Caddo Parish Police Jury on October 4, 1978; she represented the communities of Stoner Hill, Anderson Island, and portions of Allendale and Highland; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wills served from 1978 to 1984, and during her tenure, she witness an era of extraordinary economic growth and infrastructure development in northwest Louisiana; as a police juror, she successfully pushed for improvements in street maintenance, solutions to critical drainage issues, and increased availability of affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wills played a major role in the equitable reapportionment of local districts within the city of Shreveport; she has continued her role as an active participant in community affairs since the end of her service to the police jury; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wills is a dedicated civil rights activist and an active member of the NAACP; she is a former member of the NAACP's Executive Board Committee; she successfully lobbied for the renaming of Stoner Hill Elementary, which is now known as E.B. Williams Stoner Hill Elementary Lab School, to properly honor the school's pioneering principal and promote a closer sense of community; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wills worked to honor the community activism and spiritual leadership of longtime Hopewell Baptist Church pastor Reverend Dr. C.E. Galloway, and her efforts resulted in Hopewell Street being renamed C.E. Galloway Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Ms. Wills dictated an oral history of her activism, culture, and professional life, and the dictation can be heard at the Norton Art Gallery; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wills is a graduate of Shreveport Business College and she worked for Western Electric, which is now AT&T, from 1969 until her retirement in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wills was married to the late Joe Robert Wills for fifty-two years; their union was blessed with two sons, Reverend Jerard Wills and the late Jerado Wills, and four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wills is a longtime member of St. Peter Baptist Church, and she is actively involved as a Sunday school teacher and member of the Mission and Deaconess Boards; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wills is a fervent supporter of equitable educational opportunities, which she believes are pivotally important for a community's growth and prosperity; she also supports the parent teacher student associations at Claiborne Elementary and Queensborough Elementary, and is an active alumnus from the class of 1963 at Booker T. Washington High School; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Wills is an inspiring woman and political trailblazer in Caddo Parish, and she is most deserving of the highest recognition for dedicated service to her community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Shirley Wills, the first African American woman elected to the Caddo Parish Police Jury, for her exemplary leadership and service to Caddo Parish and does hereby extend sincere wishes that she remain prosperous in all of her endeavors.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES