

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 142

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Elvera R. Shannon for presiding as the Grand Worthy Matron for the Louisiana Jurisdiction upon the celebration of the Eastern Stars seventy-fifth anniversary

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Elvera Ricks Shannon for her service as Grand Worthy Matron for the
3 Louisiana Jurisdiction of the Esther Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star.

4 WHEREAS, Elvera Ricks Shannon was born to the late Norris Ricks and Elmira H.
5 Ricks in Gretna, Louisiana, both of whom were very active members of the Masonic
6 fraternal order; and

7 WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon attended All Saints Catholic School, Xavier University
8 Preparatory School, and Grambling State University, and earned her bachelor of science and
9 a master of education degrees from Southern University and A&M College; and

10 WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon also studied and received certification in several areas
11 from Xavier University, Tulane University, Jackson State University, University of
12 Louisiana at Lafayette, and Our Lady of the Holy Cross College; and

13 WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon is the widow of George A. Shannon, the former mayor
14 of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana and grand Patron Emeritus of Esther Grand Chapter, Order of
15 Eastern Star; and

16 WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon began her teaching career in the Jefferson Parish School
17 System and after twenty highly effective and productive years, she relocated with her
18 husband to Pleasant Hill, where she taught for an additional thirteen years in the Sabine
19 Parish School System; and

1 WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon officially retired as an educator in 1997 and returned to
2 her hometown of Gretna in 2007; and

3 WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon is very active in her community and holds membership
4 in the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association, American Association of Retired Persons,
5 the National Council of Negro Women, and the Jeremiah Group, and has served as vice
6 president of the Sabine Parish School Steering Committee and the Sabine Parish Tax
7 Commission; and

8 WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon has also served on the boards of directors of the Sabine
9 Parish Employees Federal Credit Union, the Sabine Organization of African Americans, and
10 the Jefferson Parish Federation of Teachers and is a former alderwoman for the town of
11 Pleasant Hill; and

12 WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon became a member of the Pride of Gretna Chapter #60 in
13 1970 and worked diligently under several Matrons before becoming Worthy Matron; and

14 WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon was elected Grand Worthy Mason of Esther Grand
15 Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, Inc., Prince Hall Affiliation, Louisiana Jurisdiction in 1998
16 and is a member of Heroines of Jericho, Prosperity Court #6, Mansfield, Louisiana;
17 Honorary Past Most Ancient Matron of the Order of Cyrenes, Josephine Smith Court #1,
18 Gretna, Louisiana; Pelican Grand Court of Cyrenes, Honorary Past Most Royal Grand
19 Commandress; Order of the Golden Circle, New Orleans Assembly #1, Past Grand Loyal
20 Lady Ruler; Daughter of Isis, Platta Court #114, New Orleans, Louisiana, Honorary Past
21 Imperial Commandress; Ruby E. Williams Auxiliary of the Phyllis Chapter of the Phylaxis
22 Society, Louisiana; life member and recent recipient of the prestigious Bruce E. Simmons
23 Award, and served as the first President of the Conference of Grand Matrons and Grand
24 Patrons from 2004 to 2009; and

25 WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon hails from a strong Masonic family, her father's name is
26 on the cornerstone of the O.J. Dunn lodge #85 in Gretna; her mother was the secretary of
27 Pride of Gretna Chapter #60 for over twenty years; and her aunt, Lillie Mae Pierce, is a past
28 Matron and a very active member of Pride of Gretna Chapter #60; and

1 WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon merits a special measure of commendation for serving
2 as a role model and visionary in her community and for the tremendous pride and honor that
3 she brings to her family, friends, the entire Masonic community, and to the state of
4 Louisiana.

5 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
6 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Elvera Ricks Shannon upon her many years
7 of service as Grand Worthy Matron for the Louisiana Jurisdiction of the Esther Grand
8 Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, does hereby record for posterity her leadership and tireless
9 work in the fraternal order to help the community and the Esther Grand Chapter advance its
10 highest standards, and does hereby extend to her best wishes for continued success and
11 happiness.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
13 to Elvera Ricks Shannon, Grand Worthy Matron for the Louisiana Jurisdiction of the Esther
14 Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star.

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)]

Smith

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