

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 281

BY REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON

A RESOLUTION

To commend Dr. Nikole Roebuck for her outstanding service as Chair of the Department of Music and Director of Bands at Grambling State University.

WHEREAS, a native of Minden, Louisiana, Nikole Roebuck is a 2001 graduate of Grambling State University's music education program; in 2005, she received a master of music degree from the University of Louisiana at Monroe; and in 2009, received a doctor of philosophy in music education from the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, while earning her degree at Grambling State University, she met her husband, Esonyo Roebuck, became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and served as a member and student leader of the Grambling State University Marching Tigers; and

WHEREAS, spending every summer at band camp since the age of four, Nikole Roebuck's passion for music has been there from the beginning, and she always knew she wanted to be a member of a band; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Roebuck's extensive career in music includes training musicians at every level from the elementary grades to the graduate level, and many of her students have gone on to careers as educators, musical directors, and international recording artists; and

WHEREAS, her work in the classroom includes instructing students at Grambling State University for more than twelve years in coursework including music education, history, and applied instrumentation; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Roebuck's work includes performances for Beyoncé, Adidas, the National Basketball Association, and numerous national brands; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Nikole Roebuck holds the distinction of being the first woman Director of Bands at Grambling State University and is a second-generation leader of the

world-famous band, following in the footsteps of her uncle and fellow alumnus, Dr. Joseph "Doc" Miller, who served as assistant director of bands from 1980 to 1989; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Dr. Roebuck holds the special distinction of being only the second woman band director in the history of the Southwestern Athletic Conference and the third in the history of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Roebuck believes that "music is like a puzzle" and enjoys sharing with her students the practice of deconstructing and rebuilding arrangements to create a musical masterpiece; and

WHEREAS, through the sharing of her love of music, Dr. Roebuck has touched the lives of more than fifty thousand students and countless fans worldwide, and under her guidance, the membership of the marching band at Grambling State University has grown by over twenty-five percent; and

WHEREAS, she has directed in twelve consecutive Bayou Classics and currently leads a team of seventeen professors and employees in the Department of Music at the university; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her vast experience and accomplishments at Grambling State University, Dr. Roebuck has served as a member of numerous professional organizations including the Louisiana Music Educators Association, the Louisiana Bandmasters Association, the National Education Association, Tau Beta Sigma Honorary Band Sorority, and the National Association for Music Education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Roebuck has also been the recipient of many awards and acknowledgments, including an award for outstanding commitment and dedication from Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity, Teacher of the Year from Arcadia High School, Martin Luther King Jr. Achievement Leadership Award from Arcadia High School, and a proclamation from the city of Arcadia; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Roebuck is a widely respected and valued member of the Grambling State University family and as stated by President Rick Gallot, "Dr. Roebuck has proven to be one of our most committed and humble leaders" and "she is a gift to our students, our community, and all who support the worldwide sound of Grambling"; and

WHEREAS, it is only appropriate that a special measure of commendation be extended to Dr. Nikole Roebuck, a phenomenal talent and treasure who serves as an

inspiration to the countless students, musicians, colleagues, friends, relatives, and citizens whose lives she has touched.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Dr. Nikole Roebuck, Chair of the Department of Music and Director of Bands at Grambling State University; does hereby recognize and record for posterity her outstanding accomplishments and singular contributions as the department chair and band leader; does hereby express to this outstanding musician and innovator gratitude for the pride and honor that she brings to Grambling State University and to the state of Louisiana; and does hereby extend to her very best wishes for continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Nikole Roebuck.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES