

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 71

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Professor Nancy Rabalais on her 2021 election to the National Academy of Sciences

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Professor Nancy Rabalais on her 2021 election to the National Academy of  
3 Sciences.

4 WHEREAS, Professor Rabalais joined the Louisiana Universities Marine  
5 Consortium in 1983 and was the executive director from 2005 until 2016; in 2016, she  
6 moved to Louisiana State University where she was appointed as the Shell Endowed Chair  
7 in Oceanography and Wetland Studies in the LSU Department of Oceanography and Coastal  
8 Sciences; and

9 WHEREAS, Professor Rabalais undertook many years of extensive research that  
10 documented and tracked linkages connecting oxygen depletion, or hypoxia, in the Gulf of  
11 Mexico to landscape use and the increasing levels of nitrogen and phosphorous being  
12 deposited into the Mississippi River; her research resulted in the authorship of federal  
13 legislation regarding the diminished water quality; and

14 WHEREAS, Professor Rabalais's work has also benefitted the fishing industry by  
15 characterizing the dynamics of the northern Gulf of Mexico where, during Spring, the  
16 oxygen levels of the water at the sea floor are so low that fish, shrimp, and crabs cannot  
17 survive; and

18 WHEREAS, Professor Rabalais has received numerous, prestigious honors such as  
19 being selected as a fellow of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science  
20 and the American Geophysical Union; she has also received a John D. & Catherine T.  
21 MacArthur "Genius Grant"; and

1 WHEREAS, Professor Nancy Rabalais has added another incredible achievement to  
2 her already-astonishing resumé by being among the one hundred twenty newly elected  
3 members of The National Academy of Sciences; and

4 WHEREAS, The National Academy of Sciences was established by a congressional  
5 charter that was signed in 1863 by President Abraham Lincoln; the academy was created to  
6 recognize achievements in the field of science by election to its highly-exclusive  
7 membership; the academy also works with the National Academy of Engineering and the  
8 National Academy of Medicine to provide science, engineering, and health policy advice to  
9 the federal government and other organizations; and

10 WHEREAS, Professor Nancy Rabalais is most deserving of the highest recognition  
11 for being named among the members of one of the science community's most exclusive  
12 groups, The National Academy of Sciences.

13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
14 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Professor Nancy Rabalais on her 2021  
15 election to the National Academy of Sciences; does hereby express sincerest gratitude to her  
16 for helping the state of Louisiana to better understand and support the ecosystems along the  
17 northern Gulf of Mexico; and does hereby extend genuine wishes that she continue to make  
18 transformative discoveries in the field of environmental science and oceanography so that  
19 she might inspire future generations of students to achieve greatness while also preserving  
20 our home.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
22 Professor Nancy Rabalais.

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#### 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)]

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HR 71 Original

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Commends Prof. Nancy Rabalais on her 2021 election to the National Academy of Sciences.