

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 239

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Veronica Lee Ann Downs-Dorsey on her accomplishments

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Veronica Lee Ann Downs-Dorsey on her accomplishments.

3 WHEREAS, Veronica Lee Ann Downs-Dorsey was born in New Orleans on May 23,
4 1956, and discovered her musical and leadership talents at an early age as a member of
5 St. Monica Catholic Church; her skills were nurtured at her church, and by the age of
6 fourteen, she directed her first choir, The Golden Emeralds, at Union Bethel African
7 Methodist Episcopal Church; and

8 WHEREAS, Ms. Downs-Dorsey was a member of the graduating class of 1974 at
9 McDonogh 35 Senior High School; she received a bachelor's degree in music education from
10 Xavier University in New Orleans and a master's degree in music education from
11 Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, Louisiana; and

12 WHEREAS, Mrs. Downs-Dorsey, who is affectionately known as "Ms. Vee",
13 worked professionally as an educator in the Orleans Parish school system for forty years,
14 thirty of which were spent in service to her alma mater, McDonogh 35 Senior High School;
15 her alma mater's choir is historically recognized as the first high school gospel choir to form
16 in the city of New Orleans and the first high school gospel choir to perform at the New
17 Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival; additionally, the choir has received numerous awards
18 including *Offbeat Magazine's* Best of the Beat Award for best gospel group on four
19 occasions; and

20 WHEREAS, Ms. Downs-Dorsey also served for many years as the choir director at
21 St. Monica Catholic Church; she is a former director of the New Orleans Gospel Soul

1 Children and currently leads the Voices of Peter Claver, the main gospel choir of St. Peter
2 Claver Catholic Church, and serves as a director of the Archdiocese of New Orleans Mass
3 Gospel Choir; she is also the principal pianist for The New Orleans Black Chorale and a
4 member of Tyrone Foster and the Arc Singers, the Davell Crawford Singers, and the New
5 Orleans Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America, Inc.; and

6 WHEREAS, Ms. Down-Dorsey has also received numerous awards recognizing her
7 inspiring gospel music and education career; she was presented with the 2015 Trailblazer
8 Award at the NOLA Gospel Awards, and in 2016, she was honored by the New Orleans City
9 Council in recognition of Women's History Month; and

10 WHEREAS, Veronica Lee Ann Dorsey-Downs is a truly inspiring woman who
11 makes a joyful noise unto the Lord and who is most deserving of the highest recognition for
12 her incredible career.

13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
14 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Veronica Lee Ann Downs-Dorsey on her
15 accomplishments and does hereby extend sincere wishes that she continue her incredible
16 gospel choir leadership for many years to come.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
18 Veronica Lee Ann Downs-Dorsey.

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 239 Original

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