

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 239

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Ms. Downs-Dorsey also served for many years as the choir director at St. Monica Catholic Church; she is a former director of the New Orleans Gospel Soul Children and currently leads the Voices of Peter Claver, the main gospel choir of St. Peter Claver Catholic Church, and serves as a director of the Archdiocese of New Orleans Mass

Gospel Choir; she is also the principal pianist for The New Orleans Black Chorale and a member of Tyrone Foster and the Arc Singers, the Davell Crawford Singers, and the New Orleans Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America, Inc.; and

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES