

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 183

BY REPRESENTATIVES ST. GERMAIN, BARROW, CHAMPAGNE, HILL, HODGES, KATRINA JACKSON, NANCY LANDRY, MORENO, NORTON, SMITH, STOKES, THIERRY, WHITNEY, AND WOODRUFF AND SENATORS BROOME, BUFFINGTON, DORSEY-COLOMB, AND PETERSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Evelyn Elain Ellerbe of Jackson, Louisiana, upon her receipt of a 2014 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation for her achievements in the field of Louisiana Hero of Excellence.

WHEREAS, Evelyn Elain Ellerbe has over thirty years of business administration experience with an emphasis for the past twenty-five years in the field of human social services for incarcerated populations and under-resourced families impacted by the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Elain Ellerbe is chief executive officer of Refined by Fire Ministries (RBF), Inc., a nonprofit organization that she and her family founded in 1995; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Evelyn Elain Ellerbe received her National Consultant/Trainer designation from Dr. Stephen Bavolek, creator of the evidence-based Nurturing Parenting Program, and was also awarded the Innovator Instructor for Financial Management by VISA International; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Evelyn Elain Ellerbe was certified in the National Fatherhood Initiative's 24/7 Dad and Inside/Out Dad curriculum; and

WHEREAS, additionally in 2010, Evelyn Elain Ellerbe received her lifetime certification as a trainer and facilitator of Bridges Out of Poverty and the unique Solutions to Poverty curriculum, Getting Ahead in A Just Getting By World; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, Evelyn Elain Ellerbe led Refined By Fire Ministries through the process of being recognized as an Area Consultant agency for Bridges Out of Poverty, a designation that includes the nine-parish area surrounding Metro Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Elain Ellerbe has also fostered several cutting edge programs including: a Fatherhood Initiative in correctional facilities across Louisiana; an incarcerated parent video project, Read to Me Daddy/Mommy; and a seven-year partnership with the national retailer, Men's Wearhouse, for a statewide suit donation program for offenders returning home; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, Evelyn Elain Ellerbe suffered the death of her husband, Michael, who was director of Reentry at Dixon Correctional Institute, following his courageous battle with cancer, and to whom she was married for over thirty-five years; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2013, both Michael and Elain were inducted into the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame with a Lifetime Achievement Recognition for their outstanding work in the field of reentry in this state; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Elain Ellerbe remains committed to continuing the work with incarcerated and under-resourced populations that she and Michael were called to do so many years ago; and

WHEREAS, just recently, in March of 2014, Evelyn Elain Ellerbe was selected by the Louisiana State University Women's Center as one of its 2014 Esprit de Femme recipients which honors outstanding women leaders across our state; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation created the Women of Excellence Awards to recognize and honor extraordinary women of excellence across the state for their outstanding achievements and contributions; and

WHEREAS, recipients of the Women of Excellence Awards exhibit characteristics of integrity and professionalism, personify excellence in their area of specialty, and are committed to community service to better society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, for 2014, there are six fields or categories for the Women of Excellence Awards: Business, College Woman of Excellence, Education and Research, High School Woman of Excellence, Louisiana Hero of Excellence, and Military; and

WHEREAS, the recipients of the 2014 Women of Excellence Awards are being recognized at the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation's Women of Excellence Awards and Scholarships Ceremony and Reception on Tuesday, May 27, 2014, at the historic Hilton Capitol House Hotel in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Elain Ellerbe of Jackson, Louisiana, has been named a recipient of a 2014 Women of Excellence Award in the field of Louisiana Hero of Excellence, a field which recognizes an ordinary everyday person who is making extraordinarily positive differences in changing the lives of people in Louisiana and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Elain Ellerbe merits a sincere and heartfelt measure of commendation for her dedication to excellence and her outstanding accomplishments, and it is entirely appropriate for the Legislature of Louisiana to commend Evelyn Elain Ellerbe upon her receipt of a 2014 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation which recognizes her vital contributions to the citizens of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Evelyn Elain Ellerbe of Jackson, Louisiana, upon her receipt of a 2014 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation for her achievements in the field of Louisiana Hero of Excellence; does hereby recognize and record for posterity her singular contributions to the citizens of Louisiana; and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the tremendous honor and pride that she brings to the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Evelyn Elain Ellerbe.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE