

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 114

BY REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL

A RESOLUTION

To commend Gloria Mae Bryant-Banks on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday.

WHEREAS, Gloria Mae Bryant-Banks was born to Eugene and Ethel Barnes Bryant; she was raised in a Christian home in Central City New Orleans and began her education at Thomy Lafon Elementary School in the Orleans Parish Public School System; and

WHEREAS, Gloria attended Gilbert Academy High School for her freshman year, after which she transferred to Gaudet Episcopal High School, where she graduated as valedictorian of her class in 1952; and

WHEREAS, after receiving her diploma, Gloria received a scholarship from the New Orleans Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, to continue her studies at Dillard University, where she completed her degree program early and graduated in 1956; and

WHEREAS, Gloria began graduate studies at the Atlanta University School of Social Work before returning to New Orleans to continue her studies at the Tulane University School of Social Work in the fall semester of 1963; in June 1964, she received a Master of Social Work degree and became the first black student to graduate from Tulane University; she further added to her social work credentials by obtaining certification from the Academy of Certified Social Workers and by becoming a board-certified social worker; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bryant-Banks dedicated the entirety of her professional career in service to the state of Louisiana; she began as a trainee of the formerly-named Department of Social Services, and thirty-six years later, she retired as the secretary for the Department of Children and Family Services; during her inspiring career, she served as the only black woman, and one of only two women, in Governor Edwin Edwards's cabinet; she was also recognized in 2022 by the Tulane University School of Social Work as a trailblazer for her roll in creating a more inclusive and diverse academic community at Tulane; and

WHEREAS, outside of her astonishing professional life, Gloria is a seventy-year member of the Beta Gamma Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated; she is a member of the New Orleans Alumnae Chapter and has served the organization at the local, regional, and national levels; she is recognized for using her immense knowledge and experience to help create the organization's book on protocol and traditions; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bryant-Banks is the proud mother of two sons, Jay H. Banks and Gralen Bryant-Banks, and she is a doting grandmother and great-grandmother; she is a lifelong member of New Zion Baptist Church, and she currently serves as a trustee and president of the Trojan's Ministry; she served her church as a teacher and lecturer at the local, state, and national levels of the Women's Auxiliary of the National Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, Gloria Bryant-Banks is a truly inspiring woman who is most deserving of the highest recognition for her outstanding achievements in the field of social work and for her incredible civic involvement throughout her life.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Gloria Mae Bryant-Banks on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that she continue to prosper in all of her endeavors and enjoy good health for many years to come.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES