

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 142

BY REPRESENTATIVES SMITH AND COX

A RESOLUTION

To commend Elvera Ricks Shannon for her service as Grand Worthy Matron for the Louisiana Jurisdiction of the Esther Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star.

WHEREAS, Elvera Ricks Shannon was born to the late Norris Ricks and Elmira H. Ricks in Gretna, Louisiana, both of whom were very active members of the Masonic fraternal order; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon attended All Saints Catholic School, Xavier University Preparatory School, and Grambling State University, and earned her bachelor of science and a master of education degrees from Southern University and A&M College; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon also studied and received certification in several areas from Xavier University, Tulane University, Jackson State University, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and Our Lady of the Holy Cross College; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon is the widow of George A. Shannon, the former mayor of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana and grand Patron Emeritus of Esther Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon began her teaching career in the Jefferson Parish School System and after twenty highly effective and productive years, she relocated with her husband to Pleasant Hill, where she taught for an additional thirteen years in the Sabine Parish School System; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon officially retired as an educator in 1997 and returned to her hometown of Gretna in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon is very active in her community and holds membership in the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association, American Association of Retired Persons, the National Council of Negro Women, and the Jeremiah Group, and has served as vice

president of the Sabine Parish School Steering Committee and the Sabine Parish Tax Commission; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon has also served on the boards of directors of the Sabine Parish Employees Federal Credit Union, the Sabine Organization of African Americans, and the Jefferson Parish Federation of Teachers and is a former alderwoman for the town of Pleasant Hill; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon became a member of the Pride of Gretna Chapter #60 in 1970 and worked diligently under several Matrons before becoming Worthy Matron; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon was elected Grand Worthy Mason of Esther Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, Inc., Prince Hall Affiliation, Louisiana Jurisdiction in 1998 and is a member of Heroines of Jericho, Prosperity Court #6, Mansfield, Louisiana; Honorary Past Most Ancient Matron of the Order of Cyrenes, Josephine Smith Court #1, Gretna, Louisiana; Pelican Grand Court of Cyrenes, Honorary Past Most Royal Grand Commandress; Order of the Golden Circle, New Orleans Assembly #1, Past Grand Loyal Lady Ruler; Daughter of Isis, Platta Court #114, New Orleans, Louisiana, Honorary Past Imperial Commandress; Ruby E. Williams Auxiliary of the Phyllis Chapter of the Phylaxis Society, Louisiana; life member and recent recipient of the prestigious Bruce E. Simmons Award, and served as the first President of the Conference of Grand Matrons and Grand Patrons from 2004 to 2009; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon hails from a strong Masonic family, her father's name is on the cornerstone of the O.J. Dunn lodge #85 in Gretna; her mother was the secretary of Pride of Gretna Chapter #60 for over twenty years; and her aunt, Lillie Mae Pierce, is a past Matron and a very active member of Pride of Gretna Chapter #60; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shannon merits a special measure of commendation for serving as a role model and visionary in her community and for the tremendous pride and honor that she brings to her family, friends, the entire Masonic community, and to the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Elvera Ricks Shannon upon her many years of service as Grand Worthy Matron for the Louisiana Jurisdiction of the Esther Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, does hereby record for posterity her leadership and tireless

work in the fraternal order to help the community and the Esther Grand Chapter advance its highest standards, and does hereby extend to her best wishes for continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Elvera Ricks Shannon, Grand Worthy Matron for the Louisiana Jurisdiction of the Esther Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES