

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 223

BY REPRESENTATIVE LANDRY

A RESOLUTION

To commend Teruis "Juvenile" Gray for his musical and cultural contributions.

WHEREAS, Teruis Gray was born to Gloaine Gray on March 26, 1975, in New Orleans and grew up in both the 10th Ward and the 3rd Ward Magnolia Housing Project; as a child, he possessed a prodigious aptitude for lyric writing, and he began his professional musical career as a teenager, earning himself the moniker "Juvenile"; and

WHEREAS, Juvenile quickly gained notoriety in the music industry for making records that formed the foundation of the New Orleans Bounce musical genre; he released his debut album, *Being Myself*, in 1995 and has since released twelve albums and sold more than ten million copies; he also holds claim to Billboard's Top R&B/Hip Hop album by a black solo rap artist with his quadruple-platinum masterpiece, *400 Degreez*; and

WHEREAS, Juvenile is recognized as a trailblazer of the Southern style of hip hop, bringing the now-dominant rap style to national airwaves with multiple hits; he has transcended cultural borders by spreading the vibrant musical style and culture of New Orleans with his timeless hit, "Back That Thang Up", which is the go-to Bounce anthem at celebrations across the globe and has garnered hundreds of millions of album sales, downloads, and 'thangs' backed up since the 99 to the 2000; and

WHEREAS, beyond the music industry, Mr. Gray has undertaken a number of successful business ventures, including his own hit beverage, which is brewed in Louisiana's 91st District on the street that his great-grandmother and grandfather once lived; and

WHEREAS, Teruis "Juvenile" Gray shares his incredible success with his close-knit family that includes his wife, Sherdonna Gray; daughters, Shermetrius Gray and Kayliyah Williams; and sons, Demetrius Gray and Teruis Gray, Jr.; he is most deserving of the highest recognition for proudly representing the city of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana as a globally-recognized musical artist.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Teruis "Juvenile" Gray for his musical and cultural contributions; does hereby further recognize his pivotal role in popularizing the New Orleans Bounce style of music around the world; and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that he continue to prosper in all of his endeavors, both in Louisiana and beyond.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES