

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 75

BY SENATOR BROOME

A RESOLUTION

To commend Willie C. Johnson upon the memorable and historic occasion of "The Ultimate Graduation", hosted by the Leadership Greater Baton Rouge Alumni.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend Willie C. Johnson for her outstanding accomplishments and singular contributions to her community and state as her excellence as the director of Baton Rouge Area Leadership is celebrated and commended; and

WHEREAS, on April 25, 2012, an event hosted by the Leadership Greater Baton Rouge Alumni, "The Ultimate Graduation", is acknowledging the extraordinary achievements of Willie Johnson; and

WHEREAS, for many years, Ms. Johnson has served with great dedication and effectiveness as director of the Baton Rouge Area Leadership Program, which was founded as a program of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber to prepare a diverse group of professionals for leadership positions in the community and which has graduated hundreds of members who have gone on to tremendous success in the arenas of business, government, and community service; and

WHEREAS, through her leadership of this program, Ms. Johnson has touched the lives of countless individuals who have carried her lessons and the skills learned from SIMSOC with them as they have proceeded to make remarkable contributions to society as influential leaders on various boards and commissions and holders of public office; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, after serving for fourteen highly productive years as the Baton Rouge Area Chamber's senior vice president for Community Development, Ms. Johnson officially retired from the chamber; in this vital position, she was responsible for the coordination of all of the chamber's education, law enforcement, and judicial initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson has a master of education degree and a bachelor of arts degree in psychology, is a trained facilitator through the Kettering Foundation and completed a two-year training institute on community politics with this foundation, is a graduate of the Lafayette Chapter of the National Coalition Building Institute, and has been a Teacher Corps intern; and

WHEREAS, a former teacher and high school administrator, Ms. Johnson has made significant contributions as a very active member of her community, including serving as a past president of the Women's Council of Greater Baton Rouge, the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge, the Capital Area Human Services District, and the Greater Baton Rouge Federation of Churches and Synagogues; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Leadership Greater Baton Rouge and Leadership Louisiana, Ms. Johnson is also an honorary member of the Louisiana State University Chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa, was elected to the Baton Rouge Community College Foundation Board, and has served her community in various other important leadership roles; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson has been the deserving recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the National Conference for Community and Justice Brotherhood/Sisterhood Award, the Powell-Reznikoff Humanitarian Award, the Public Relations Association of Louisiana Communicator of the Year Award, the Forum 35 Baton Rouge Original Award, and the Louisiana Heroine Award from the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations, among others; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend in great measure upon people like Willie Johnson, an exceptional woman and an inspiration to all; and

WHEREAS, Willie C. Johnson merits a sincere measure of commendation for her many years of outstanding service to the people of the city of Baton Rouge and the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Willie C. Johnson upon the memorable and historic occasion of "The Ultimate Graduation", hosted by the Leadership Greater Baton Rouge Alumni, does hereby recognize and record for posterity her notable accomplishments and manifold contributions to her fellow citizens, and does hereby extend sincere and heartfelt appreciation for the enduring pride and honor that she brings to her community and state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Willie C. Johnson.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE