

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 193

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS

COMMENDATIONS: Commends the students, faculty, and staff of the Martinez Kindergarten School in New Orleans on the occasion of its eighty-five-year reunion

A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the historic Martinez Kindergarten School on the celebration of its eighty-five-
3 year reunion.

4 WHEREAS, prior to founding the Martinez Nursery School in 1934, Mildred
5 Bernard Martinez had been forced to resign as a teacher with the New Orleans Public School
6 system after marrying Maurice Martinez, Sr.; at the time, it was illegal for African American
7 teachers to get married while employed by the system; and

8 WHEREAS, the original site of the Martinez Nursery School was at 5315 LaSalle
9 Street, and it was moved to its North Roman address in 1940; by the 1950s, the name was
10 changed to "Martinez Kindergarten School"; providing education to three-, four-, and five-
11 year-olds, it is said to be the first early education center for children of color in the state; and

12 WHEREAS, throughout the years, many African American professionals supported
13 the school; among them, Dr. Walter Young, one of very few African American dentists in
14 New Orleans at the time, provided dental care to Martinez students at no cost; C.C. Haydel,
15 Sr., a prominent African American physician, provided the students with free inoculations
16 and medical care that they were denied at doctors' offices due to laws requiring or permitting
17 segregation according to race; and

18 WHEREAS, the school has been closed since it flooded in Hurricane Katrina, but
19 many community members have the goal of reestablishing the site of the Martinez School;
20 and

1 WHEREAS, Numa, Maurice and Mildred Martinez's son, a lifetime Seventh Ward
2 resident, owns the property and is currently working on creating community-building
3 programs and revitalizing the site; and

4 WHEREAS, there are aspirations for the site to house an entrepreneurial and
5 business management support center, a computer lab and technology training center, and a
6 music education center; there are also efforts being made for the school to be added to the
7 National Register of Historic Places; and

8 WHEREAS, thousands of children throughout the New Orleans area received their
9 early education from the school and often credit the high academic standards set by Mildred
10 Martinez with starting them on the road to academic success; two notable alumni are serving
11 as co-chairs of the eighty-five-year class reunion, the Honorable Austin Badon and the
12 Honorable Ann D. Duplessis, both former members of the Legislature of Louisiana; and

13 WHEREAS, the significance of the Martinez Kindergarten School will forever
14 remain in the hearts and minds of all who attended, taught, and worked at the institution, and
15 it is fitting to extend to them best wishes for a joyous reunion.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
17 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the historic Martinez Kindergarten School
18 on the celebration of its eighty-five-year reunion; does hereby recognize and record for
19 posterity the positive impact Maurice and Mildred Martinez made in the academic paths of
20 countless children in the New Orleans area; and does hereby wish every measure of success
21 for all those contributing to the revitalization of the school, for it is a treasure of the Seventh
22 Ward, and should be treated as such.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
24 Numa J. Martinez.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 193 Original

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Duplessis

Commends the Martinez Kindergarten School of New Orleans on the celebration of its 85-year reunion.