

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 286

BY REPRESENTATIVES TERRY LANDRY, BAGNERIS, BOUIE, BRASS, CARPENTER, GARY CARTER, COX, DUPLESSIS, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GLOVER, JIMMY HARRIS, JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, JORDAN, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MARCELLE, DUSTIN MILLER, MOORE, NORTON, PIERRE, AND SMITH

COMMENDATIONS: Commends the current and former African American women who have served or are serving on the Louisiana State Police force

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the current and former African American women who have served or are  
3 serving on the Louisiana State Police force.

4 WHEREAS, in 1936, the Louisiana Legislature passed legislation creating the  
5 State Police, which emerged from a highway commission in 1922 with a force of sixteen  
6 men patrolling the highways on motorcycles to its current status of a state police force of one  
7 thousand sixty-three men and women responsible for all elements of criminal and highway  
8 safety interdiction in the state; and

9 WHEREAS, the mission of the Louisiana State Police is to ensure the safety and  
10 security of the people in the state through enforcement, education, and providing of other  
11 essential public safety services; and

12 WHEREAS, the office of state police is a state agency with an incredibly rich history  
13 and with a motto of "Courtesy, Loyalty, Service"; and

14 WHEREAS, state troopers have faced obstacles from the time of inception of the  
15 agency; however, historians have confirmed that their most challenging assignment, along  
16 with the Louisiana National Guard, was being called to guard and protect civil rights  
17 marchers in Bogalusa and, in 1965 and 1967, during which they had the task of trying to  
18 prevent the violence and bloodshed that had scarred other cities across the nation during the  
19 civil rights movement; and

1           WHEREAS, in 1972, Governor Edwin Edwards appointed Colonel Donald  
2 Thibodeaux as Superintendent of State Police, and the colonel led the department through  
3 many reforms, including allowing women to join the force in 1974; and

4           WHEREAS, it was not until 1976 when Trooper Joyce Stephanie Isaac Thibodeaux,  
5 now deceased, who started her law enforcement career with the Lafayette City Police  
6 Department, became the first African American woman to join the Louisiana State Police;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, in 2019, there are only eight African American women who wear or  
9 have worn the uniform; the retired and current African American women of the Louisiana  
10 State Police force are the late Master Trooper Joyce Thibodeaux; retired Master Trooper  
11 Joanne Rozigas; retired Lieutenant Charron Thomas; Lieutenant Treone Larvadain; Sergeant  
12 Sanikka Williams; senior troopers Zuleika Joseph and Lisa Quijano; and troopers Melissa  
13 George, Qualyndrea Jones, and Tiah Larvadain; and

14           WHEREAS, like all troopers serving the citizens of Louisiana, these eight women  
15 have maintained the values of the Louisiana State Police since the day they graduated from  
16 the academy: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage;  
17 and

18           WHEREAS, without a doubt, these women are dedicated to their profession and they  
19 are also dedicated to their families as wives, mothers, grandmothers, daughters, and sisters;  
20 and

21           WHEREAS, in 2018, Lieutenant Treone Larvadain and Trooper Tiah Larvadain  
22 became the first mother and daughter troopers in the eighty-two years of the Louisiana State  
23 Police history; and

24           WHEREAS, among the most well-trained law enforcement officers in the country,  
25 these troopers are proudly and courageously paving the way for others to follow and are  
26 inspirations for all women to never give up on their dreams.

27           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
28 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the African American women, past and  
29 present, of the Louisiana State Police force for their law enforcement service.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
2 family of the late Joyce Thibodeaux, and to Joanne Rozigas, Charron Thomas, Treone  
3 Larvadain, Sanikka Williams, Zuleika Joseph, Lisa Quijano, Melissa George, Qualyndrea  
4 Jones, and Tiah Larvadain.

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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)]

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HR 286 Original

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Terry Landry

Commends the current and former African American women of the La. State Police.