

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 325

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLARD

A RESOLUTION

To commend Loyce Pierce Wright on receipt of the 2024 Regina Matrum Award from the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

WHEREAS, the Regina Matrum Award is presented by the Archdiocese of New Orleans to a recipient who has displayed exemplary Catholic motherhood; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Loyce Pierce Wright has been recognized as the 2024 Regina Matrum Award recipient; she will be presented with the award on Monday, June 3, 2024, at St. Raymond and St. Leo the Great Catholic Church in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Loyce attended Joseph A. Craig Elementary School and received her diploma from Joseph S. Clark High School; she graduated from Southern University with a degree in French and a minor in Spanish; she earned a master's degree in education administration from the University of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Loyce married Louis Wright, the love of her life and a P.E. teacher and coach, on Valentine's Day 1976; she spent the first ten years of her professional career teaching French and Spanish at schools in Edgard and New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Wright made a career shift to social justice work, and she was appointed by governors Mike Foster, Kathleen Blanco, and Bobby Jindal to serve as the executive director of the Louisiana Commission on Human Rights; for nearly seventeen years she commuted daily to Baton Rouge and was responsible for enforcement of the state's anti-discrimination laws in employment, banking, lending practices, and public accommodations; she rendered determinations on complaints filed with the commission on discriminatory practices based on race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, pregnancy, and disability; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Wright has received numerous awards, accolades, and honors; she received the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Rosa Parks Award for Service to Human and Civil Rights and the Martin Luther King, Jr., Drum Major for Justice Award; additionally, she spent twenty years championing the rebuilding of the New Orleans YWCA at Norman C. Francis Parkway and Tulane Avenue; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Wright has said that "being a mother is the epitome of love; giving love, nurturing, motivating, encouraging, being present, understanding, never condemning", and she is most deserving of the highest recognition for her inspiring dedication in carrying out the duties of her motherly role.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Loyce Pierce Wright on receipt of the 2024 Regina Matrum Award from the Archdiocese of New Orleans and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that she continue to share her love and compassion for many years to come.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES