

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 334

BY REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG

A RESOLUTION

To commend Valena Purvis Lane on a lifetime of achievements in education, the humanities, and community activism.

WHEREAS, Valena Purvis Lane is a native of Mansfield and a sixty-two-year resident of Grambling, Louisiana; she was educated in DeSoto Parish public schools and accepted a band scholarship to attend Grambling State University, where she played clarinet in the GSU Tiger Marching Band; she also attended San Francisco State College, Northwestern State University, and Louisiana Tech University; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lane completed a master's degree plus thirty hours and has been certified as a housing manager by the National Center for Housing Management in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, at the age of twenty-one, Ms. Lane began a teaching career in the public school systems of Webster and Lincoln Parishes; after retiring from teaching at the age of forty-one, she accepted a role as secretary of the Grambling Housing Authority and later served as the authority's executive director; and

WHEREAS, while serving as executive director of the Grambling Housing Authority, Ms. Lane wrote several grants to the Department of Housing and Urban Development that resulted in the construction of one hundred seventy-eight total public housing units in three complexes: Liberty Lane, Perkins Lane, and West Grambling Lane; she secured a fifteen-passenger van to transport residents to church and other local educational events and sponsored educational trips for disadvantaged residents, including a trip to Disney World in Orlando, Florida; she retired from her role with the housing authority in 1997; and

WHEREAS, four months after retiring from the Grambling Housing Authority, Ms. Lane was asked by State Representative Pinkie C. Wilkerson to serve as the executive director of her non-profit, Community Coordinating Council, Inc. (CCC); and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lane has directed numerous educational seminars and organized numerous trips, including two United States presidential inaugurations, Niagara Falls, Toronto, New York City, and more; she recently experienced a ten-day tour of the Holy Land in Israel; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lane has received numerous awards and honors, including the Louisiana Housing Council's Extra Mile Award and the Outstanding Community Service Award from the Greater Grambling Chamber of Commerce; she was awarded The Presidential Citation by the National Association for Equal Opportunity for Higher Education in recognition of exemplary experiences that honor Grambling State University; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lane is a former member of the Monroe-Grambling Chapter of The Links, Inc., and currently holds Golden Life Membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; she was recently inducted as an honorary member of the Pi Gamma Mu International Honors Society; she serves on the Pinkie C. Wilkerson Life Development Center board of directors and formerly served on the board of directors for Humanitarian Enterprise for Lincoln Parish; she worked with Friends of the Lincoln Parish Library and mentored a student attending the Louisiana State School for the Blind in Ruston; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lane is a longtime member of New Rocky Valley Baptist Church, where she serves as the Children's Church director and secretary for the trustee board; she has been named "Woman of the Year" for New Rocky Valley and the Grambling Charter Chapter of the American Business Women's Association; and

WHEREAS, Valena Purvis Lane is an educator, humanitarian, community activist, civic leader, organizer, and public servant who is most deserving of the highest recognition for her inspiring career.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Valena Purvis Lane on a lifetime of achievements in education, the humanities, and community activism, and does hereby

express enduring appreciation for her many contributions to the state of Louisiana and beyond.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES