

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 71

BY REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

A RESOLUTION

To commend Bridget A. Dinvaut for her outstanding career in criminal justice.

WHEREAS, it is most fitting to recognize Bridget A. Dinvaut for her dedication to protecting and serving the citizens of Louisiana and to commend her outstanding career in criminal justice; and

WHEREAS, Bridget A. Dinvaut is a native of St. John the Baptist Parish who began her career in criminal justice nearly thirty years ago; she received a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice from Southern University at New Orleans and a certification in supervision and management from the University of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, from 1984 through 1985, Ms. Dinvaut worked as a bounty hunter and private investigator; in 1986, she worked as an undercover narcotics officer employed by the St. John the Baptist Sheriff's Office, where she displayed a strong work ethic, leadership, and professionalism and earned the rank of lieutenant commander of the Narcotics Division; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Dinvaut's work with state and federal law enforcement task forces allowed her to transition from local law enforcement to the federal criminal justice system; from 1994 through 2002, she served as a federal law enforcement officer and was assigned to federal supervision and pre-sentence investigations with the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana and the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida; during her federal service, she served as a sentencing specialist for the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and as a lead safety and training instructor; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Dinvaut relinquished her federal law enforcement career in 2002 and pursued a legal career at the Southern University Law Center, where she earned a juris doctor degree and graduated magna cum laude; during her second year in law school, she accepted a position at the law firm of Lemle & Kelleher, L.L.P., where she practiced civil defense litigation in transportation, labor and employment, and insurance law; as a senior

associate with the firm, she represented numerous public and private clients in state and federal courts; and

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2015, Ms. Dinvaut became Louisiana's first-ever African American woman to be sworn in as an elected district attorney; she also became the first female elected to the 40th Judicial District Attorney's Office in St. John the Baptist Parish; and

WHEREAS, District Attorney Dinvaut has concentrated office resources to bring violent criminals to justice and spearheaded programs for the benefit and welfare of the citizens of St. John the Baptist Parish; she established the Opportunity Now Program, which is dedicated to providing eligible non-violent felony offenders with a second chance to become productive citizens; and

WHEREAS, District Attorney Dinvaut established diversion programs to assist first-time and low-risk offenders, and she spearheaded a campaign to educate the public on elder abuse crimes; she instituted an "Education Matters" program to highlight the importance of education in crime prevention, and she has supported youth-focused groups such as Young Marines; and

WHEREAS, District Attorney Dinvaut is a member of the Louisiana District Attorney Association Board of Directors; on September 29, 2016, she was appointed to the Louisiana Reentry Advisory Council by Governor John Bel Edwards, and she was reappointed to the council on December 28, 2020; and

WHEREAS, District Attorney Dinvaut expanded the 40th Judicial District's Victim's Assistance Program by assigning a victim's assistant to each division in the district; in September 2018, she launched a cost-free crime prevention initiative program known as St. John P.R.O.U.D., which consists of six consecutive weeks of soft skill training and assists in the transition to the local workforce for gainful employment; and

WHEREAS, District Attorney Dinvaut's office began the Restorative Justice Electronic Classroom program in January 2020; the program gives participants access to over twenty-five online education courses that feature audio, video, and reading materials offered by subject matter experts in each field; these educational opportunities work to support local nonprofit organizations and provide quality educational experiences for the participants; and

WHEREAS, in March 2020, District Attorney Dinvaut established a partnership with the Youth Empowerment Project to facilitate a juvenile diversion program in St. John the Baptist Parish; in September 2020, The Community Foundation of Acadiana awarded her with the Leaders in Law Enforcement Award in recognition of her exceptional work and impact on the community; and

WHEREAS, on January 26, 2021, District Attorney Dinvaut was appointed by Governor John Bel Edwards to serve on the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice Board; on May 5, 2021, Governor Edwards appointed her to serve on the Council on Peace Officer Standards and Training; and

WHEREAS, on August 15, 2022, the Louisiana District Attorneys Association announced District Attorney Dinvaut's election as president of the association's board of directors; and

WHEREAS, District Attorney Dinvaut is the daughter of Rudolph G. Dinvaut and Corine Pipion Dinvaut and has two sisters, Bonnie Dinvaut and Billie Dinvaut-Duncan; she is a proud Christian and is married to former NBA player Michael A. Sanders; and

WHEREAS, District Attorney Bridget A. Dinvaut is an incredibly gifted woman, and she is most deserving of the highest recognition for her incredible professional achievements.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Bridget A. Dinvaut for her outstanding career in criminal justice; does hereby express enduring appreciation for her many contributions to St. John the Baptist Parish and the state of Louisiana; and does hereby extend sincere wishes that she remain prosperous in all of her endeavors.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES