

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 332

BY REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Anita Whitaker-LaFontaine on her artistic achievements as an author, actress, and singer

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Anita Whitaker-LaFontaine on her artistic achievements as an author, actress,
3 and singer.

4 WHEREAS, Anita Whitaker-LaFontaine is a native of Shreveport, Louisiana, and
5 grew up in the Cedar Grove community; she is the daughter of Green Whitaker, Sr., and the
6 late Ola Mae Whitaker; and

7 WHEREAS, Anita is a 1974 graduate of Captain Shreve High School, a 1981
8 graduate of Northeast Louisiana University, and a former registered intensive care unit
9 nurse; and

10 WHEREAS, Anita became the first African American Miss Louisiana in 1984, and
11 she was Star Search Hall of Fame Grand Champion; and

12 WHEREAS, Anita is an accomplished singer and songwriter who has performed in
13 four world premiere musicals, countless charity galas, television and concert venues, and
14 theatrical productions; she has recorded and co-produced four studio albums to date; and

1 WHEREAS, Anita has performed with many of the most famous voices and
2 musicians of her time, including duets with Andrea Bocelli, Michael Bolton, Josh Groban,
3 Dave Koz, and Chris Botti; she sang the original demos for Whitney Houston's songs "I Will
4 Always Love You", "I Have Nothing", and "I Look to You"; she is a favorite singer of the
5 legendary producer, David Foster; and

6 WHEREAS, Anita has worked with Carole Bayer Sager, Michael Bubl , Kenneth
7 "Babyface" Edmonds, Patti Austin, Burt Bacharach, Carole King, James Ingram, Steve
8 Tyrell, Patti LaBelle, and Barbara Streisand; and

9 WHEREAS, Anita has created cabaret shows and undertaken work on memoirs; she
10 co-wrote *Sophisticated Lady: The Songs of Natalie Cole* with Kenneth L. Roberson; she also
11 penned two award-winning books, including *When Your Hand is in the Lion's Mouth: The*
12 *Life and Wisdom of a Man named Green*, which won the award for Best African American
13 non-fiction and details the life lessons she learned from her centenarian father, Green
14 Whitaker, Sr.; and

15 WHEREAS, Ms. Whitaker-LaFontaine made her Broadway debut as Wiletta Mayers
16 in Alice Childress's Tony-nominated play, *Trouble in Mind*, and she received the 2019
17 NAACP Best Supporting Actress Award for her role as Mom Winans in the musical *Born*
18 *for This*; and

19 WHEREAS, Ms. Whitaker-LaFontaine was presented with the 2022 Artist Award
20 by Skylight Theater in Los Angeles for her work with children and literacy; she continues
21 to advocate for literacy through her nonprofit organization, In A World with Books, which
22 has provided thirty thousand five hundred books to children; and

23 WHEREAS, Ms. Whitaker-LaFontaine considers her incredibly talented daughters,
24 Skye and Liisi LaFontaine, as the greatest delights of her life; and

25 WHEREAS, Anita Whitaker-LaFontaine is most deserving of the highest recognition
26 for her many achievements across multiple artistic disciplines.

27 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
28 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Anita Whitaker-LaFontaine on her artistic
29 achievements as an author, actress, and singer and does hereby extend sincere wishes that
30 she remain prosperous in all of her endeavors.

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 332 Original

2026 Regular Session

Phelps

Commends Anita Whitaker-LaFontaine on her artistic achievements as an author, actress, and singer.