

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 332

BY REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Anita has created cabaret shows and undertaken work on memoirs; she co-wrote *Sophisticated Lady: The Songs of Natalie Cole* with Kenneth L. Roberson; she also penned two award-winning books, including *When Your Hand is in the Lion's Mouth: The Life and Wisdom of a Man named Green*, which won the award for Best African American

non-fiction and details the life lessons she learned from her centenarian father, Green Whitaker, Sr.; and

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Anita Whitaker-LaFontaine on her artistic achievements as an author, actress, and singer 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