

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 61

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate The Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale, the first predominately African-American female Mardi Gras Krewe, on its founding, community impact, and contributions to the cultural life of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, The Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale, under the leadership of President Gwendolyn Rainey, was founded in 2013 by a visionary group of women - Gwendolyn V. Rainey, Ann Marie Allen, Takeisha C. Davis, Lisa Ray Diggs, Kimberly Early, Bherita "Bambi" Hall, Michelle Hayes, Nghana Lewis-Gauff, Yvonne Mitchell-Grubb, Catherine Phipps, Sharlayne Jackson-Prevost, Joan Cooper-Rainey, and Regina Bartholomew-Woods, to create a space for sisterhood, cultural celebration, and community service; and

WHEREAS, The Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale made history with its inaugural parade on Sunday, February 8, 2015, on the traditional Uptown route, proudly becoming the first predominately African-American female Mardi Gras Krewe in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, the Krewe, whose colors are Candy Apple Red, White, and Black, is distinguished by its signature throw, the Designer Lady's Compact, and is committed to offering women of all creeds and colors a unique opportunity to participate in the Mardi Gras tradition while uplifting and enhancing the broader community; and

WHEREAS, since its founding, The Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale has grown to more than fourteen hundred members from twenty-six different states and continues to make a lasting impact through numerous charitable and service initiatives, including the Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway in partnership with the New Orleans Saints, Rouses Markets, and the Dryades YMCA; the Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale's Tools for School Health and Resource Fair; the Annual Family Fun Day in City Park; the Health and Wellness Walk; and the Annual Winter Wonderland Christmas Drive; and

WHEREAS, the Krewe also fosters youth leadership and development through its Future Femmes and Le Jeune Femmes programs, mentoring girls ages seven to twenty through activities such as the mother-daughter tea, sip-and-paint events, skate parties, compact and umbrella decorating, and participation in the annual parade; and

WHEREAS, the Cherchez La Femme dance troupe, composed of Femme Fatale members, showcases their talent and spirit through performances at major parades, sporting events, and even featured appearances, such as in PJ Morton's "New Orleans Girl" music video; and

WHEREAS, The Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale embodies the spirit of community, culture, service, and celebration, representing the best of Louisiana's enduring Mardi Gras traditions while breaking barriers and inspiring future generations; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to recognize and commend The Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale for its outstanding achievements and continued contributions to the cultural and social fabric of New Orleans and the entire state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Tuesday, April 29, 2025, as Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Kimberly Early, Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale President.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE