

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 179

BY REPRESENTATIVE ADAMS

A RESOLUTION

To commend Belinda Constant upon her election as the first woman to serve as mayor of Gretna, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Belinda Constant began her elective public service as a city council member in Gretna and on April 6, 2013, she was elected mayor of that city, being the first woman to so serve; and

WHEREAS, the mayoral election was greatly anticipated in the community as the previous mayor decided not to run after serving seven terms; and

WHEREAS, on her road to victory in the mayoral race, Belinda Constant faced another member of the city council; and

WHEREAS, Belinda was first elected to the Gretna City Council in 2005, just a few months before the greater New Orleans area was devastated by Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath; and

WHEREAS, Belinda's initial term was so successful that in 2010 she was reelected without opposition; and

WHEREAS, Belinda is a native of New Orleans and a longtime resident of Gretna, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Belinda graduated from Archbishop Blenk High School (now combined to form the Academy of Our Lady, a Catholic high school for girls in Marrero) and attended Louisiana State University; and

WHEREAS, Belinda is married to Ronnie Constant, and they have raised three children on the Westbank; and

WHEREAS, her work history includes ownership and operation of a court reporting business and service as the administrator of both the Jefferson Parish Intensive Probation Drug Court and the Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, from which she is now retired; and

WHEREAS, during her campaign for mayor, Belinda touted her experience, gleaned from having taken office mere months before Hurricane Katrina, in navigating federal agencies to secure resources and reimbursements as a significant qualification for serving as the mayor of Gretna; and

WHEREAS, her civic involvements have been many, including participation in the Leadership Louisiana Program offered by the Council for a Better Louisiana in 2006, and contributions to St. Joseph Church development, the Gretna Economic Development Association, the Gretna Farmers' Market and Artwalk, the Gretna Heritage Festival, the Gretna Historical Society, the Friends of the German-American Cultural Center, the Friends of Jefferson the Beautiful, the Jefferson Historical Society of Louisiana, the Louisiana Municipal Association, and the Louisiana Association of Drug Court Professionals; and

WHEREAS, Belinda's plans for her first term as mayor of Gretna include continuing to explore and develop economic opportunities by seeking parish, state, and federal grants, to upgrade the greatly stressed utility systems in the area, and to continue to expand social and recreational opportunities for the citizens of Gretna, with a special focus on senior citizens and youth.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Belinda Constant upon her election as the first woman to serve as mayor of Gretna, Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Belinda Constant, Mayor of Gretna, Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES