

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 111

BY SENATOR PETERSON

A RESOLUTION

To commend Veronica Lee Downs-Dorsey on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, Veronica Lee Downs-Dorsey, a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, is the daughter of Mrs. Ruby V. Downs and the late Mr. Virgil Downs, is married to Wardell Anthony Dorsey, and is the proud mother of Veronique Lahdell Dorsey; and

WHEREAS, Veronica graduated from McDonogh 35 Senior High School in 1974; and

WHEREAS, Veronica's early years were spent in a warm Christian environment filled with positive role models and achievers from whom she drew inspiration and encouragement; and

WHEREAS, central to these years were Veronica's experiences as a member of St. Monica Catholic Church, where her musical talents and leadership first became evident; and

WHEREAS, affectionately know as "Ms. V", Veronica is an artist demonstrating her musical talents as a performer, soloist, director, instructor, organist, and pianist in a variety of venues, both secular and sacred; and

WHEREAS, Veronica attended Martinez Kindergarten, where a solid foundation of Christian principles, music lessons, love, and discipline was laid, and upon which she has built her life; and

WHEREAS, when she was only fourteen, Veronica was directing her first choir, The Golden Emeralds at Union Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Veronica earned a Bachelor of Music Education from Xavier University and a Master of Music Education from Southeastern Louisiana University at Hammond, and is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Omicron Lambda Omega Chapter; and

WHEREAS, Veronica has devoted her energies to numerous choirs and organizations, traveling extensively throughout the world sharing her musical gifts, and she has been recognized for her many accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Veronica has directed many singing groups and ensembles, including the St. Monica Catholic Church Holy Hill Gospel Choir, the St. Peter Claver Catholic Church Choir, the Vero Singers, the New Orleans Public Schools Honor Choir, and the New Orleans Archdiocesan Mass Choir; and

WHEREAS, she was the organist of the 2002 Mayoral Inauguration Prayer service and the choir director for the 2006 New Orleans Mayoral Inauguration; and

WHEREAS, she is a member of the Arc Singers, a faculty member of Xavier University Institute for Black Catholic Studies, and a member of the New Orleans Black Chorale; and

WHEREAS, she has received numerous honors, including her selection as the McDonogh 35 High School Valedictorian "Favorite Teacher" recipient in 1993, 1996, and 2005, and the McDonogh 35 "Teacher of the Year" for the 1995-1996 school year; and

WHEREAS, she was featured in a PBS documentary at the Jazz Festival "The American Experience" and in the BET "One Night Only", "Dream Girls" Production with McDonogh 35, both in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Veronica's musical journey at McDonogh 35 led her to the distinguished Mrs. Patricia Sallier Seals, a teacher who encouraged her to persevere and motivated her to achieve her best and strive for improvement; and

WHEREAS, Veronica reached the pinnacle of her musical career when she was selected to take up the mantle of vocal music teacher at McDonogh 35 upon Mrs. Seals' retirement; and

WHEREAS, Veronica continues in the spirit of her Lord and Savior, to reach out and touch the lives of young and old alike, presently teaching choral music at McDonogh 35 Senior High School and serving as director of music at St. Peter Claver Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS, Veronica has allowed God to use her throughout her lifelong music career, and her love for the youth and teaching them to communicate through song is apparent to all; and

WHEREAS, she is a leader with the vision to see through the problems of today into the possibilities of tomorrow, and she is a friend, a teacher, a wife, a mother, and a truly gifted woman of God; and

WHEREAS, Veronica has proved to be an educator of boundless energy and ability, a person of great empathy and vision, and a teacher whose devotion to education has been a priceless gift to the public school system of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Veronica Lee Downs-Dorsey upon her retirement, does recognize her for a lifetime of devotion to music and the profession of education, and does extend heartfelt wishes for a long and happy retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Veronica Lee Downs-Dorsey.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE