

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 233

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Vanecia Belser Kimbrow, Esq., for her public service to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Vanecia Belser Kimbrow, Esq., of Memphis, who is the chair of the I AM A VOTER Strategic Collaborative for Voter Education, Registration, Mobilization & Reform; and

WHEREAS, the I AM A VOTER Strategic Collaborative was designed and implemented to establish a sustainable, transformational, measurable, and impactful GET OUT THE VOTE effort that addressed the lack of consistent and significant voter engagement and turnout among the citizens of Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the I AM A VOTER Strategic Collaborative is to empower all voters to be educated, motivated, registered, and engaged voters who advocate for social, economic, cultural, political, and environmental justice; and

WHEREAS, the I AM A VOTER Strategic Collaborative was founded in 2012 by the National Trends and Services Facet of the River City Tennessee Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, under the leadership of chair Link Vanecia Belser Kimbrow, Esq., and chapter president Link Inetta Rogers. The Links issued a call to action and collaboration to a multitude of local civic, business, faith-based, Greek, and philanthropic organizations. Over a dozen organizations answered and have since registered more than 10,000 new voters and co-hosted numerous community forums and training sessions; and

WHEREAS, a University of Memphis alumna, Ms. Kimbrow earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Sales and Marketing from the Fogelman School of Business, and she earned her Juris Doctorate from the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. In addition, she is Institute of Real Estate Management (IREM) accredited, with residential manager certification, and she is a certified tax compliance specialist; and

WHEREAS, an exceptional leader, Ms. Kimbrow is the executive director of the Tennessee Green Build and JOBS Initiative of the Equal Justice Community Development Corporation. She is also a member of the Consortium MMT (Memphis Music Town)/Memphis Music Foundation, where she chairs the strategic planning committee and participates in both the fund development and governance committees; and

WHEREAS, this former Shelby County Board of Education District IV Commissioner is the foundation chair of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., Memphis Chapter; she is the Social Action Committee chair of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Memphis Alumnae Chapter, and the chair of the National Trends and Services Facet of The Links, Incorporated, River City Chapter; and she is a member of the NAACP Social Action Committee. In addition, she is a founding board member of the Memphis College Preparatory Charter School; and

WHEREAS, committed to service, she mentors at-risk girls in the judicial system through the GirlzLife Empowerment Program, Inc., and she chairs that organization's fund development committee; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Ms. Kimbrow received the 2013 Outstanding Foundation Chair Award, Southeastern Region, Jack and Jill of America, Inc., as well as the 2013 Tri-State Defender "Best Attorney" Award and the 2010 Tri-State Defender "Woman of Excellence" Award, Best in Black Awards; she was also named *Memphis Magazine's* "Woman to Watch" in 2008 and "Woman on the Move" in 2007; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Vanecia Kimbrow for her dedication to this State and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and honor Vanecia Belser Kimbrow, Esq., for her outstanding leadership in the I AM A VOTER Strategic Collaborative for Voter Education, Registration, Mobilization & Reform, and we extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.