

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 137

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARPENTER

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Baker High School 2016-2017 Symphonic Band upon earning a superior performance rating from the Louisiana Music Educators Association and a gold rating, first place concert band, and most outstanding band at the WorldStrides OnStage National Festival.

WHEREAS, the Baker High School Symphonic Band claimed the coveted "superior" performance rating from the Louisiana Music Educators Association at the District IV Festival on March 14, 2017, and at the State/Region Festival on April 27, 2017; the state superior rating was the first for the school since the city of Baker became an independent school district; and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2017, the Baker High School Symphonic Band participated in the WorldStrides OnStage National Festival in Dallas, Texas, and earned a gold rating and the titles of First Place Concert Band and Most Outstanding Band; and

WHEREAS, the band has been awarded a record twenty plaques and trophies in the 2016-2017 school year, and its senior class has earned \$1.5 million in band scholarships; and

WHEREAS, these wonderful achievements were gained in spite of the loss of the band's practice room and school buildings in the floods of August 2016; the band students were forced to relocate to temporary facilities at Baker Middle School for the 2016-2017 school year; and

WHEREAS, a musical highlight of the events of the band's journey from the depths of flooding to the pinnacle of success are contained in a composition written for the Baker High School Symphonic Band by Ayatey Shabazz, "Regenesis", and it was the performance of this piece that resulted in the superior rating at the state music competition; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of band director William Earvin and student teacher Odion Mowoe, dance cosponsor Sheri Collins, dance coach Chaneyra Valentine, and principal Traci Morgan, and with the support of the city of Baker school board, district and local administrators, and Kenneth White and the Buff Band Parent Association, the talented young musicians of Baker High School have exhibited the hard work and discipline necessary to reach their goals, and their efforts merit hearty recognition and praise; and

WHEREAS, with an unwavering commitment to excellence, these student musicians and Director Earvin reflect immense credit upon Baker High School, their families, and the entire community and are a testament to perseverance in the face of great difficulty; they are truly deserving of special commendation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Baker High School Symphonic Band for its outstanding performances in the 2016-2017 school year; does hereby recognize the accomplishments of receiving a superior performance rating, gold rating, first place concert band, and most outstanding band from state and national associations; and does hereby extend to band students, faculty, and staff sincere best wishes for continued success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the principal of Baker High School, Traci Morgan.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES