

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 244

BY SENATORS CLAITOR, ALARIO AND LAFLEUR

A RESOLUTION

To commend Harry Connick Sr. for his outstanding accomplishments and singular contributions during thirty years of dedicated public service as district attorney and for his remarkable musical accomplishments.

WHEREAS, Joseph Harry Fowler Connick was born on March 27, 1926, in Mobile, Alabama, the second of eight children of Jessie Catherine and James Paul Connick and when he was two years old, the family moved to New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Harry Connick Sr. served in the United States Navy in the Pacific during World War II and, after the war, he returned to New Orleans and graduated from Loyola University with a degree in business administration; and

WHEREAS, he later joined the United States Army Corps of Engineers as a civilian employee where he met his future wife, Anita Livingston; they married in Tunisia and spent time in Casablanca where Harry contracted tuberculosis; they were sent back to the United States and eventually ended up in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, when Harry and Anita Connick returned to New Orleans, they opened a record store; ultimately, they owned two stores while simultaneously pursuing law degrees, one working in the store while the other was at school, and their two children, Suzanna and Harry Jr., were born; and

WHEREAS, Anita Connick died in 1981, and Harry Connick Sr. married Londa Jean Matherne in 1995; and

WHEREAS, New Orleans music and culture is a large part of Harry Connick's life; in 1993, he and his son, Harry Jr., were part of the group that founded the Krewe of Orpheus, a superkrewe that included both men and women members who participate in annual Mardi Gras parades; he has recorded two albums; in 1996, he released "All of Me" and two years later, he released "New Orleans. . .My Home Town"; and he began working as a professional singer in New Orleans clubs in 1990 at the age of sixty-five; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, Harry Connick Sr. defeated incumbent New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison and served in that office until 2003, being re-elected in 1978, 1984, 1990, and 1996; he has been nationally recognized as an innovator in the criminal justice system and has been credited with efforts to improve the plight of crime victims and to rehabilitate offenders; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, he waged an unsuccessful challenge to incumbent William J. "Billy" Guste Jr. for the position of Louisiana Attorney General; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, he did not seek re-election and was inducted into the Louisiana Political Museum and Hall of Fame in Winnfield; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of the state's communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend in great measure on the dedication of public servants like Harry Connick Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Harry Connick Sr. merits a special measure of commendation for the tremendous pride and honor that he brings to his family, friends, community, and state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Harry Connick Sr. for his outstanding accomplishments and singular contributions during thirty years of dedicated public service as district attorney and for his remarkable musical accomplishments, and does hereby extend to him best wishes for full measures of continued success and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Harry Connick Sr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE