

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 5

BY SENATOR THOMPSON

A RESOLUTION

To commend Margie Yates Jenkins for her outstanding contributions to horticulture and for being the first woman inducted into the Louisiana Agriculture Hall of Distinction.

WHEREAS, Margie Yates Jenkins was born in 1921 in St. Tammany Parish and began her love of nature growing up on a farm where her parents farmed cotton, sugarcane, and timber, and were successful cattle and sheep ranchers; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Franklinton High School in 1938, Margie began working for what is now the state Farm Service Agency; and

WHEREAS, in 1951, she and her late husband, Bryant, moved to Tangipahoa Parish and planted their first cash crop, a small watermelon field; and

WHEREAS, they established their landscaping nursery in 1960 after buying fifty acres of what is now Jenkins Farm and Nursery in Amite City; and

WHEREAS, Margie and her husband Bryant raised five beautiful children, four of whom work with her at Jenkins Farms and Nursery, a 128-acre nursery east of Amite; and

WHEREAS, at the age of fifty-four she taught herself how to propagate plants and has done so for the last forty years; and

WHEREAS, Margie has hosted countless educational events through the LSU AgCenter and remains an active member of the Louisiana Forestry Association; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her work in introducing the hardy Robin Hill variety of azaleas, the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station dedicated its property to Jenkins and named its azalea and native-plant research garden in her honor; and

WHEREAS, she has received numerous industry honors including the James A. Foret Award, the Louisiana Native Plant Society's Karlene DeFatta Award, and the Slater Wight Memorial Award from the Southern Nursery Association; and

WHEREAS, Margie frequently lectures across the country and is noted nationally in the world of horticulture as one of the foremost experts in azalea propagation; and

WHEREAS, at the age of ninety-seven, with a career that spans eighty years, Margie is recognized nationwide as one of the most knowledgeable experts on the cultivation of rare and native landscaping plants; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Agriculture Hall of Distinction honors outstanding contributions to Louisiana agriculture in farming, ranching, forestry, horticulture, aquaculture, education, and agribusiness; and

WHEREAS, Margie Yates Jenkins was inducted into the Louisiana Agriculture Hall of Distinction on March 22, 2018, during the annual ceremony presented by the Louisiana Radio Network, LSU AgCenter, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Margie Yates Jenkins for her outstanding contributions to horticulture and for being the first woman inducted into the Louisiana Agriculture Hall of Distinction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Margie Yates Jenkins.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE