

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 16

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend Robert "Bob" Giles on being named the 2022 *TIME* Dealer of the Year and to recognize his many years of outstanding community service.

WHEREAS, Bob Giles has been a resident of Lafayette, Louisiana, since 1982, where he met and married his wonderful wife Sandy, and together they have two children; and

WHEREAS, originally from Texas, Bob began his training in the retail automotive industry at the young age of eleven, when he was paid twenty-five cents an hour to wash vehicles on the lot of his father's Ford dealership in Denison, Texas; and

WHEREAS, at the age of twenty-four, Bob starting selling cars and landed a role as sales manager at his father's automobile dealership; and

WHEREAS, Bob purchased a Volkswagen dealership in Lafayette, Louisiana, and in 1982, he moved to Lafayette on his twenty-eighth birthday and established what has become Giles Automotive, Incorporated; and

WHEREAS, over time, Bob grew Giles Automotive, Incorporated to more than fifteen new and used car dealerships across the United States before scaling back in recent years to three locations in Lafayette, one location in Opelousas, and another in El Paso, Texas, and as one of his career accomplishments, Bob is credited as instrumental in launching in 1984, Lafayette's very successful annual car show and sale involving several dealerships in a variety of brands coming together at an offsite location for a car shopping extravaganza; and

WHEREAS, each year *TIME* magazine, in partnership with Ally Bank and the National Automobile Dealers Association, honors new car dealers across America and their tireless efforts to improve their communities and the world around them with the Dealer of the Year award; and

WHEREAS, it was announced at the National Automobile Dealers Association show in March that this year's top recipient of this prestigious award, out of the nearly sixteen thousand dealers across the country, was Bob Giles for his efforts in the Acadiana area, of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Bob's community involvement includes partnering with a local television station to create the Acadiana Community Heroes campaign which recognizes deserving individuals or nonprofit organizations that make a difference in the area with exposure for their cause and a monetary prize; and

WHEREAS, Bob started Giles Gives Back to provide financial support and exposure to several local community organizations including Red Bird Ministries (grief support ministry that focuses on bereaved families who have experienced the loss of a child), Lafayette Education Foundation (provides grants and recognition to teachers to support and promote excellence in education), Lafayette Police Department's Fallen Heroes Fund (provides funding for the families of Lafayette officers killed in the line of duty), Dreams Come True of Louisiana (grants dreams to children with life-threatening illnesses), Acadiana Animal Aid (a no-kill animal adoption center), Hunters for the Hungry (local sportsmen provide fish and game for meals at homeless shelters), Boys and Girls Club of Acadiana (provides youth programming in the Acadiana area), and the Outreach Center (addresses the root causes of homelessness and assists women and children in need by providing critical recovery services); and

WHEREAS, in addition, for one day in 2009, Bob sold gas at his dealership for ninety-nine cents a gallon, donating proceeds to local outreach programs; in 2019, he announced a thirty-day challenge to the community regarding three churches that were burned in St. Landry parish and agreed to match funds raised; and during the recent pandemic, he launched Giles Essential Errand Running Service offering grocery and essential item deliveries by the dealership staff to senior citizens and immunocompromised individuals; and

WHEREAS, Bob Giles' generosity with his time and resources truly epitomizes the kind of community service that is both inspirational and effective, and the pride he brings to this state with national recognition for his actions should be celebrated.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize and congratulate Robert "Bob" Giles on being named the 2022 *TIME* Dealer of the Year and commend him on his many years of outstanding community service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Robert "Bob" Giles.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE