

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 146

BY REPRESENTATIVES BAYHAM AND GALLE

A RESOLUTION

To commend the American Friends of Lafayette and to recognize their efforts to celebrate and commemorate General et Marquis de La Fayette's seven-day visit to Louisiana in 1825.

WHEREAS, from August 15th of this year through September of 2025, the American Friends of Lafayette will celebrate the significant contributions made by Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de La Fayette, towards American independence and the bicentennial of Lafayette's "The Nation's Guest" Tour; and

WHEREAS, as a 19-year-old French general in 1777, Marquis de La Fayette defied King Louis XVI's direct orders not to get involved in the conflict between Great Britain and its American colonies, and instead he joined the Continental Army to fight the British; and

WHEREAS, General Lafayette quickly proved himself in battle and was recognized by General George Washington; and

WHEREAS, General Lafayette displayed outstanding leadership while serving alongside Colonel Alexander Hamilton during the siege of Yorktown, which eliminated the crucial British redoubts 9 and 10 and eventually forced General Lord Cornwallis's surrender and turned the tide of the war; and

WHEREAS, General Lafayette's participation in the American cause for independence played a pivotal role in convincing France to enter the war; the French financial and military assistance directly contributed to the Continental Army's victory over Great Britain, which led to our nation's independence; and

WHEREAS, in 1824, President James Monroe and congress believed that American patriotism was waning; the last surviving general of the American Revolution, General Lafayette, was invited to tour the twenty-four states of the Union in hopes of reigniting pride in our nation; the six thousand-mile, thirteen-month-long tour was an enormous success; and

WHEREAS, the American Friends of Lafayette is a historical society founded in 1932 at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, that is honoring the contributions of General et Marquis de La Fayette with a celebration of the Bicentennial of Lafayette's tour; the celebration features commemorative events around the country to mark events such as Lafayette's historic seven-day visit to Louisiana in 1825; and

WHEREAS, Lafayette was rightfully acknowledged by the French philosopher Voltaire as "the hero of two worlds"; the American Friends of Lafayette are working with numerous local organizations in Louisiana, including the Louisiana State Museum; events will include a Lafayette historical exhibit at the Cabildo.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the American Friends of Lafayette and recognizes their efforts to celebrate and commemorate the significant contributions made by General et Marquis de La Fayette during his seven-day visit to Louisiana in 1825 and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that the commemorative celebration reignites pride in both American and Louisiana history.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES