

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 285

BY REPRESENTATIVE MYERS

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Christopher Forest Stafford.

WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing, on May 2, 2024, of Christopher Forest Stafford; and

WHEREAS, Christopher Stafford was among the brightest stars in both Acadiana's and Louisiana's musical constellation; he began as a child prodigy and multi-instrumentalist who, from an early age, was recognized as one of the region's most promising talents; he was revered for his mastery of traditional instruments and styles, as well as his ability to innovate and reinvent his musical heritage from within; and

WHEREAS, Christopher first gained renown for his collaborations with his lifelong friend Chris Segura, with whom he founded La Bande Feufollet; despite their youth, the band earned an early reputation for sterling musicianship, a deep and wide command of traditional styles, as well as a tendency to push the boundaries of tradition with taste and finesse; Chris toured the world with various incarnations of Feufollet, often with his younger brother Mike on drums, and recorded several Grammy-nominated albums; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work with La Bande Feufollet, Christopher performed on albums by Cedric Watson, Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys, Johnny Nicholas, the Daiquiri Queens, Courtney Granger, Tommy McLain, April Verch, Brass Bed, the Red Stick Ramblers, and more; he performed as a member of a variety of bands including The Bucks, Racines, the Viatons, Cedric Watson et Bijou Creole, Trouble Down Teche, and his little sister's newly formed group, Chère Elise; and

WHEREAS, beyond his incredible talents, Chris is remembered for being a kind, loving, and humble person, both on stage and off; his friends and family recognized that his kindness, humility, curiosity, and intelligence were intertwined with his musical genius; he will be remembered as a devoted son to his adoring mother Lisa, a loving brother to Mike and Elise, and an inspiration to the many musicians who shared stage or studio with him and the many fans and admirers his music reached across cultures and across national and international boundaries; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stafford was scheduled to perform with Feufollet at the New Orleans Jazz Fest on Saturday, May 4, 2024; he leaves to cherish and carry on his beautiful legacy his beloved family and the Christopher Stafford Memorial Foundation; he will be deeply missed but certainly never forgotten.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Christopher Forest Stafford; does hereby recognize his incredible accomplishments; and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that his family, friends, and loved ones find comfort in their shared memories of his beautiful life.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES