

2025 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY SENATORS STINE, BOUDREAUX, DUPLESSIS, HARRIS, MYERS AND
WOMACK

COMMENDATIONS. Commends the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and celebrates the 2025 Bright Lights Awards Honorees.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and to recognize and celebrate
3 the 2025 Bright Lights Awards Honorees for their outstanding contribution to the
4 cultural and educational fabric of Louisiana.

5 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) has served the
6 people of Louisiana for more than fifty years by promoting education, preserving history,
7 and enriching public life through the humanities; and

8 WHEREAS, LEH's mission to foster learning, literacy, and a deeper understanding
9 of Louisiana's diverse people and stories has empowered generations of Louisiana families,
10 educators, and lifelong learners; and

11 WHEREAS, each year, LEH hosts the Bright Lights Awards Dinner to honor
12 individuals and organizations whose work exemplifies the values of the humanities and
13 whose contributions meaningfully preserve and celebrate Louisiana's cultural identity; and

14 WHEREAS, the 2025 Bright Lights honorees have made significant and lasting
15 impacts on Louisiana's cultural, educational, and historical landscape through their
16 exceptional work and dedication to the humanities; and

17 WHEREAS, the 2025 honorees include:

- 18 • Dr. Norman C. Francis, recipient of the Humanist of the Year award for a lifetime

1 of service and leadership in education and civil rights;

2 • Senator Willie Landry Mount, recipient of the Chair's Award for Institutional
3 Support, in recognition of her steadfast advocacy and public service;

4 • Festivals Acadiens et Créoles, named Champion of Culture, for their celebration
5 and preservation of Louisiana's Cajun and Creole heritage;

6 • Dr. John Bardes, recipient of Humanities Book of the Year for *The Carceral City:*
7 *Slavery and the Making of Mass Incarceration in New Orleans, 1803–1930*,
8 for his vital contribution to historical scholarship;

9 • WWOZ, honored for Digital Humanities Project of the Year for *A Closer Walk:*
10 *New Orleans Music History, Block by Block*, celebrating and documenting
11 the city's rich musical legacy;

12 • Pableaux Johnson, named Documentary Photographer of the Year, for his
13 compelling visual storytelling that captures the essence of Louisiana life and
14 culture;

15 • Jim Davis, recipient of the award for Lifetime Contributions to the Humanities, for
16 his enduring commitment to advancing the public humanities in Louisiana;
17 and

18 • Lt. Michael Brooks, recipient for the Light Up for Literacy Award, for his efforts
19 to champion literacy and promote lifelong learning; and

20 WHEREAS, these honorees contribute to the illumination of Louisiana's rich
21 heritage, serve as inspiration to future generations, and embody the spirit of excellence in
22 service to the people and the stories of this great state.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
24 does hereby commend the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities for its invaluable
25 contributions to education, culture, and public life and congratulate the 2025 Bright Lights
26 honorees for their inspiring work, affirming the continued importance of humanities-based
27 learning and cultural preservation in shaping Louisiana's future.

