

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 26

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

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the 2025 honorees include:

- Dr. Norman C. Francis, recipient of the Humanist of the Year award for a lifetime of service and leadership in education and civil rights;
- Senator Willie Landry Mount, recipient of the Chair's Award for Institutional Support, in recognition of her steadfast advocacy and public service;
- Festivals Acadiens et Créoles, named Champion of Culture, for their celebration and preservation of Louisiana's Cajun and Creole heritage;

- Dr. John Bardes, recipient of Humanities Book of the Year for *The Carceral City: Slavery and the Making of Mass Incarceration in New Orleans, 1803–1930*, for his vital contribution to historical scholarship;
- WWOZ, honored for Digital Humanities Project of the Year for *A Closer Walk: New Orleans Music History, Block by Block*, celebrating and documenting the city's rich musical legacy;
- Pableaux Johnson, named Documentary Photographer of the Year, for his compelling visual storytelling that captures the essence of Louisiana life and culture;
- Jim Davis, recipient of the award for Lifetime Contributions to the Humanities, for his enduring commitment to advancing the public humanities in Louisiana; and
- Lt. Michael Brooks, recipient for the Light Up for Literacy Award, for his efforts to champion literacy and promote lifelong learning; and

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE