

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 182

BY SENATOR PRESSLY

A RESOLUTION

To commend Randolph "Randy" Edwards on his remarkable contributions over thirty-five years to youth choral music and church music ministry.

WHEREAS, Randolph "Randy" Edwards has served as a transformative leader in the fields of youth choral music and church music ministry for more than thirty-five years, reshaping the landscape of youth choir programs across North America; and

WHEREAS, as Founder and President of YouthCUE, established in 1990, Mr. Edwards has built a multi-denominational network of over six hundred youth choirs spanning twenty-four states, offering a unique blend of musical excellence, spiritual formation, and personal development; and

WHEREAS, through YouthCUE, Mr. Edwards has led eighty-three choral festivals, conducted mass choirs and professional orchestras in twenty-six U.S. states as well as in Canada, Mexico, Korea, and Kenya, and produced sixty-four professionally recorded CDs featuring youth and adult choirs along with symphony orchestras; and

WHEREAS, YouthCUE has participated in and been featured in numerous concerts and music festivals and performances in locations throughout our nation including thirty-eight performances since 1996 at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, YouthCUE has become a national resource for students and choir directors alike, offering festivals, educational programs, a podcast (CUEcast), and a publication (CUEnotes) that enrich both musical understanding and spiritual growth; and

WHEREAS, Randy Edwards is a prolific author and composer whose textbook *Revealing Riches & Building Lives* is widely recognized as the definitive guide to youth choir ministry and is used in university and seminary settings across the country; and

WHEREAS, his additional writings, including *Lessons Learned*, along with more than six hundred published articles and nineteen choral anthems, have solidified his status as a thought leader in the sacred and academic choral music communities; and

WHEREAS, beyond his work with YouthCUE, Mr. Edwards has served in key ministry positions at First Baptist Church San Antonio, First Baptist Church Shreveport, Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio, and currently as Associate Pastor of Worship and Music at Woodland Baptist Church in San Antonio, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to music ministry at the local church level; and

WHEREAS, his service as Chorusmaster for the Shreveport Opera Company from 1991 to 1999 exemplifies his ability to bridge the worlds of professional performance and sacred music; and

WHEREAS, Randy Edwards is the proud father of three adult children, Preston, Ashley, and Kathryn, and his personal and professional life stands as a testament to the power of music to inspire faith, leadership, and emotional growth in young people; and

WHEREAS, though the exact number of youth impacted by his work is incalculable, it is evident that tens of thousands of students have participated in or been profoundly influenced by the programs and opportunities Mr. Edwards has created.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Randolph "Randy" Edwards for his outstanding leadership and lifelong contributions to youth choral music, and does extend heartfelt gratitude for the joy, excellence, and faith he has instilled in generations of young musicians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Randolph "Randy" Edwards in honor of his enduring impact on the world of music and ministry.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE