## SLS 14RS-1861

## **ORIGINAL**

Regular Session, 2014

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 64

BY SENATOR PERRY

LEGIS POWERS/FUNCTIONS. Designates the city of Scott as the Cajun Art Capital of Louisiana.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To designate the city of Scott, Louisiana, as the Cajun Art Capital of Louisiana.
3	WHEREAS, the preservation of Cajun art, language, cuisine, literature, architecture
4	and culture, in general, is an important priority for the residents of South Louisiana; and
5	WHEREAS, the story that is told is that at the age of three, a little French-speaking
6	tot sat near where his mother was making soap in a big black pot over a fire, quickly burning
7	down to charcoal and ash; and
8	WHEREAS, the child gathered the pieces of charcoal, the ones that had cooled
9	enough to touch, and placed them in a small wooden box, later to be used to make the first
10	charcoal drawings of the now much acclaimed Cajun illustrator and artist, Floyd Sonnier;
11	and
12	WHEREAS, Floyd, born in a small sharecropper's house in an area called La Pointe
13	Noire near Church Point in Acadia Parish in South Louisiana and educated in Church Point
14	schools, eventually obtained a Bachelor of Arts in commercial art from Southwestern
15	Louisiana Institute, now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette; and
16	WHEREAS, Floyd spent his life illustrating and capturing Cajun life in Acadiana,
17	launching his career with a successful exhibit of his pen-and-ink drawings in Lafayette in
18	1975, became a full-time artist in 1978, and opened Floyd Sonnier's Beau Cajun Art Gallery

1 and studio in Scott, outside Lafayette; and 2 WHEREAS, Sonnier not only continued his career as an artist, but through his pen-3 and-ink drawings of Cajun culture he brought that culture to audiences across the United 4 States of America and to devotees of his work in France and French Canada, to whom he spoke primarily in French; and 5 WHEREAS, Floyd Sonnier is one of the most celebrated of Cajun artists and 6 7 illustrators and he opened his studio in a historic building in Scott, from where he brought 8 the Cajun culture to people around the world and reminded the residents of Acadiana of the 9 richness and strength of their own culture; and 10 WHEREAS, today the original location of Sonnier's gallery exists as the Gallery 11 Acadie owned by two Scott natives who earn their living as artists and Sonnier's works 12 remain on display at the Beau Cajun Gallery nearby; and 13 WHEREAS, Scott is also home to the Society of Acadian Illustrators, an art guild 14 that is dedicated to preserving the arts of the Acadian people and Sonnier was declared the 15 first honorary member of the guild; and 16 WHEREAS, the guild is open only to artists of Acadian ancestry but hopes to enlist the support and appreciation of people around the world in maintaining the Cajun culture and 17 18 bringing the richness of Cajun culture to new audiences everywhere; and 19 WHEREAS, these activities centered in Scott have made Scott the centerpiece of preserving Cajun art, illustration, and culture and bringing to the attention of the world the 20 21 efforts of new Acadian artists who honor and revere the contributions of their ancestors. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 22 designate the city of Scott as the Cajun Art Capital of Louisiana. 23 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Purvis J. Morrison, the mayor of Scott, with special thanks to the people of Scott for 25 supporting and encouraging the retention and celebration of Cajun art in Louisiana. 26

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

Perry

DIGEST

SCR No. 64

Designates the city of Scott as the Cajun Art Capital of Louisiana.