

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY REPRESENTATIVE THIERRY

COMMENDATIONS: To commend Alton Broussard of Opelousas for a lifetime of service as a civil rights and political activist and business owner

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Alton Broussard of Opelousas for his contributions to the community of  
3 Opelousas as a civil and social rights advocate and business owner.

4 WHEREAS, for more than fifty years, Alton Broussard cut hair in his downtown  
5 Opelousas barber shop while blazing a trail through the injustice of racism and segregation;  
6 and,

7 WHEREAS, following a two-year tour of duty in the United States Navy, Mr.  
8 Broussard enrolled in and graduated from LaBelle Barber College in New Orleans; his  
9 barbering business provided the platform from which he would launch his efforts for social  
10 justice; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Broussard joined the St. Landry Parish NAACP and encouraged  
12 voter registration and organized nonviolent protests and sit-ins to end racial segregation; he  
13 credits ownership of his own business with his ability to participate fully in the civil rights  
14 movement without the fear of job loss; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Broussard played a key role in a successful sit-in demonstration in  
16 Oberlin that involved the town's Catholic church, which at the time required blacks to sit at  
17 the back of the church; he also marched in Selma, Alabama, following the infamous Bloody  
18 Sunday of March 7, 1965; and

19 WHEREAS, in the mid 1960s, Mr. Broussard accepted an appointment from Mayor  
20 Wilfred Cortez to serve on the Opelousas Housing Authority's board of commissioners, the  
21 first black to receive such an appointment; and

1           WHEREAS, in the early 1970s, Mr. Broussard worked with others to fight unfair  
2 voting practices and was among the first blacks elected to the parish police jury, a position  
3 in which he served for twelve years; and

4           WHEREAS, Alton Broussard served on the Tri-Parish board of directors; the St.  
5 Landry Community Action Council, which was the governing board of the Head Start  
6 program; the state Board of Barber Examiners; the Krotz Springs Port Commission; and he  
7 was a junior knight commander in the Knights of Peter Claver Council 8; and

8           WHEREAS, Alton Broussard retired from barbering in 2013 but he remains active  
9 with his farm, rental properties, and retains his seat on the Opelousas General Health System  
10 board of directors, where he continues to carry out his work of advocacy for the citizens of  
11 his community.

12           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
13 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Alton Broussard for a lifetime of  
14 contributions to civil rights, social justice, and human compassion.

15           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
16 to Alton Broussard.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 18 Original

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Commends Alton Broussard of Opelousas for civil rights advocacy, social activism, and contributions to his community.