

2016 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 38

BY SENATOR CLAITOR

COMMENDATIONS. Commends the Baton Rouge Blues Foundation and recognizes the Baton Rouge Blues Festival being held on April 9-10, 2016.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend and congratulate the Baton Rouge Blues Foundation for its efforts to preserve
3 and promote the unique blues culture of Baton Rouge and the region and to
4 recognize the Baton Rouge Blues Festival being held on Saturday, April 9 through
5 Sunday, April 10, 2016.

6 WHEREAS, on the Mighty Mississippi, located between the urbane sophistication
7 of New Orleans jazz and the Cajun and Zydeco sounds of the French people of Acadiana,
8 is the Blues from Baton Rouge; and

9 WHEREAS, it is a sound that draws from the experience of sharecroppers, cane
10 cutters, plant workers and touring musicians; it is country come to town; it can be
11 mysterious, even dark, but always full of life and energy; it is downhome and it is electric;
12 it is the music of Lonesome, Lightnin', Lazy and Slim that captured the imagination of The
13 Stones, The Kinks, The Moody Blues and the Black Keys; it is a spirit that lives on through
14 the Blues families like Hogan, Thomas and Neal and still fuels the good times of many a
15 local on a Saturday night - it is the Swamp Blues; and

16 WHEREAS, the Baton Rouge Blues Foundation seeks to preserve, promote, and
17 propel this unique blues culture of Baton Rouge and the region; and

18 WHEREAS, this, 501(c)(3), not for profit organization, formed in 2002, is run

1 entirely by volunteers who see the Swamp Blues as an asset to the communities of Baton
2 Rouge and Louisiana as well as a beautiful and rich export to the nation and world; and

3 WHEREAS, while native musical culture and spirit is strong in Baton Rouge, it is
4 often overlooked in comparison to its neighbors to the southeast and the west but the Baton
5 Rouge Blues Foundation seeks to change that story; and

6 WHEREAS, through the tireless efforts of its board members and countless
7 volunteers and in partnership with the many blues musicians from the Baton Rouge area, the
8 Baton Rouge Blues Foundation is making great strides in presenting Baton Rouge as a blues
9 town, while adding to the awareness of many music lovers, that the blues is a major part of
10 the rich Louisiana musical heritage; and

11 WHEREAS, a big part of that heritage is on display at the Baton Rouge Blues
12 Festival, held this year on Saturday, April 9 through Sunday, April 10, 2016; and

13 WHEREAS, the Blues Fest brings to the world the best in Blues, R n B, Soul,
14 Gospel, Rock & Roll, and more, with music that celebrates the great blues culture of Baton
15 Rouge and our region while providing a showcase for our local legends and leaders; and

16 WHEREAS, through the contribution of its many partners including Mayor Kip
17 Holden and the City of Baton Rouge/Parish of East Baton Rouge, the festival is provided at
18 no cost; and

19 WHEREAS, since 2010 the Baton Rouge Blues Festival has increased its number of
20 performing artists by 500%, from eight artists in 2010 to 45 artists in 2016, and its
21 attendance by 300%, amazing growth for a free event and evidence that this event is not only
22 a great cultural touchstone for the Baton Rouge area but an economic opportunity; and

23 WHEREAS, the Baton Rouge Blues Foundation provides additional programming
24 the whole year round, such as the Baton Rouge Blues Gala, a developing historic marker
25 program, and a public high school educational program through which the foundation is
26 positioning Baton Rouge as the anchor of blues music in Louisiana while providing an
27 economic and tourism engine for South Louisiana based on its cultural capital for years to
28 come.

29 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
30 does hereby commend and congratulate the Baton Rouge Blues Foundation for its efforts to

