

2017 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 23

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Gloria Nye, PhD on her induction into the St. Landry Parish Democratic Party Hall of Fame.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend and congratulate Gloria Nye, PhD upon her induction into the St. Landry
3 Parish Democratic Party Hall of Fame.

4 WHEREAS, Gloria Nye was born on March 31, 1943, to Gloria Birkholtz and Harry
5 Geise in LaPorte, Indiana, and she graduated from McArthur High School in West
6 Hollywood, Florida; and

7 WHEREAS, Gloria Nye was raised on a farm in LaPorte County, Indiana, and from
8 that rural, agricultural beginning, she has traveled across the country and, indeed, around the
9 world teaching and using her considerable skills in research and administration at
10 universities around the nation; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Nye earned her bachelor's degree from Sonoma State University in
12 California in political economics with a concentration in foreign trade and economic
13 development, and her master's degree from Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana; and

14 WHEREAS, Gloria Nye earned her PhD at Louisiana State University in Baton
15 Rouge, Louisiana in educational leadership and research and her doctoral dissertation and
16 attendant research, entitled "Mentoring to Build Diversity in the University Community",
17 received two Athena awards, national awards given for professional excellence, community
18 service, and for actively assisting women in their attainment of professional excellence and

1 leadership skills; and

2 WHEREAS, at Louisiana State University, Dr. Nye was research and development
3 coordinator for the Center for Energy and her proposal to Louisiana then-Senator John
4 Breaux which became the University of Louisiana Wetlands Research Center in Lafayette,
5 Louisiana; and

6 WHEREAS, Gloria Nye moved to the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center
7 in St. Landry Parish, which closed in 2012 due to cuts in funding in higher education, but
8 her commitment to St. Landry Parish ended her academic wanderings and she and her family
9 firmly planted their roots in the lush Louisiana soil; and

10 WHEREAS, in St. Landry Parish, Dr. Nye became a member of the Rotary Club of
11 Opelousas in 2008, and for the year 2013-2014 she was honored with the "Rotarian of the
12 Year" award for initiating the organization's electronic newsletter, which was named Rotary
13 District 6200 Best Newsletter of the Year; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Nye established the Rotary Club of Opelousas' web page and has
15 served as the club's secretary and currently serves on the board of directors as
16 president-elect; and

17 WHEREAS, Gloria Nye has also been designated a "Paul Harris Fellow" which is
18 an honor given to Rotarians who support the Rotary Foundation for worldwide polio
19 eradication, clean water projects, and other humanitarian efforts to promote world peace and
20 understanding; and

21 WHEREAS, in addition to her remarkable accomplishments through the Rotary Club
22 of Opelousas and Rotary International, Dr. Nye has also worked tirelessly for an
23 organization named "Court Appointed Special Advocates" or CASA, which assists children,
24 often in foster parent situations, many of whom have been abused and neglected, to have a
25 lay person mentor and attend court with them, and the organization strives to bring light to
26 the distressing need for foster parents in the Louisiana court system; and

27 WHEREAS, in 2014, Gloria Nye brought her most important civic and social causes
28 together by organizing the Rotary Club's first annual donation of Christmas gifts for CASA
29 children, a program that has continued since, and in 2014 she received the CASA Board
30 Member of the Year award for the entire state of Louisiana; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Nye and her husband John have two sons, two daughters, and a
2 granddaughter who lives with them and is attending college; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Gloria Nye and her family have endowed undergraduate academic
4 scholarships at the University of Delaware and Purdue University, and have pledged two
5 more endowments for Louisiana State University, one of which honors of Dr. Martin Luther
6 King; and

7 WHEREAS, while these are merely a small sample of the generous deeds that have
8 been accomplished by Dr. Nye, her life has included deep commitments to family, academia,
9 community, and to bringing better opportunities to children who are dealing with difficult
10 issues in their young lives every day; and

11 WHEREAS, as a nonnative Louisianian, Gloria Nye came to this state and to St.
12 Landry Parish with a wealth of knowledge and experiences from across this country, all of
13 which strengthened the foundation for the selfless work that she has committed to in her city
14 and parish for which the entire parish and state are richer and kinder, and St. Landry Parish
15 has been fortunate enough to count her as an asset and a treasure; and

16 WHEREAS, the St. Landry Democratic Parish Executive Committee annually names
17 persons of high ethical and moral character who have promoted the principles of
18 constitutional equality, personal liberty, economic opportunity, and government and fiscal
19 responsibility whose impact has positively influenced the entire parish and the state; and

20 WHEREAS, the Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, who is then considered to
21 be a member of the St. Landry Democratic Party Hall of Fame, is also a person who
22 recognizes and respects the diversity of all Americans and promotes the common unity of
23 all, leading her political party and displaying strong leadership throughout her career; and

24 WHEREAS, Dr. Nye has demonstrated a devotion to all of these principles of the St.
25 Landry Democratic Party with a lifetime of efforts in the academic arena and through social
26 services focused on children, championing the principles, especially the opportunities and
27 lives of the most vulnerable, that are so essential to the ideals of American democracy.

28 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
29 does hereby commend and congratulate Gloria Nye, PhD upon her induction into the St.
30 Landry Parish Democratic Party Hall of Fame.

