

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 23

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Gloria Nye moved to the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center in St. Landry Parish, which closed in 2012 due to cuts in funding in higher education, but

her commitment to St. Landry Parish ended her academic wanderings and she and her family firmly planted their roots in the lush Louisiana soil; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, while these are merely a small sample of the generous deeds that have

been accomplished by Dr. Nye, her life has included deep commitments to family, academia, community, and to bringing better opportunities to children who are dealing with difficult issues in their young lives every day; and

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Gloria Nye, PhD.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE