

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 22

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Clifton Louis Lemelle Sr. upon the occasion of being named to the St. Landry Parish Democratic Party Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, Clifton Louis Lemelle Sr. was born in Iota, Louisiana, to the late Joseph and Elena Lemelle on September 7, 1935, was educated in the public schools of Eunice, and graduated from Charles Drew High School in 1955; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lemelle received his bachelor's degree from Grambling State University in education and his master's degree and thirty additional graduate level classes from Southern University; and

WHEREAS, Clifton Lemelle Sr. devoted thirty-six years of his life to the education and the nurturing of the boys and girls of St. Landry Parish as a teacher, coach, and administrator; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lemelle strives to embody his personal philosophy that states, "Strong faith and integrity will enable one to meet the challenges of serving humanity", and he leads by example, modeling this philosophy in his teaching career and his life in St. Landry Parish; and

WHEREAS, Clifton Lemelle Sr. has lead a wide range of organizations throughout his public life in St. Landry Parish and the Acadiana region, including: president of Child Development Council of Acadiana, president of St. Landry Head Start program, president of Iota Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity in Opelousas, executive secretary of the St. Landry Parish Federal Credit Union, founder of St. Landry Parish Education Association, past president of Black Men Make a Difference in Eunice, past commander of St. Landry Bi-Racial Committee, and commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3786 and the Seventh District; and

WHEREAS, Clifton Lemelle Sr. is the second and longest serving president of the J. K. Haynes Foundation Legal Defense Fund, Inc. and Education Division, an entity that works to champion the civil rights of individuals and groups primarily in St. Landry Parish;

and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lemelle has held membership in many civic, civil rights, and military organizations, including the Veterans' of Foreign Wars Post 3786, past member of the Louisiana State Commission on the Education of Student Drop-outs, and past member of the Louisiana State Commission on Teacher Certification and Evaluation; and

WHEREAS, Clifton Lemelle Sr. has received numerous awards and commendations, including: St. Landry Parish School Board award for distinguished service, the Martin Luther King Jr. Award presented by the city of Eunice by proclamation on "Clifton Lemelle Day" in March 2003, African American Hall of Fame inductee, and the St. Landry branch of NAUW's award for "Leading the Struggle against Racism"; and

WHEREAS, Clifton Lemelle Sr. has spoken to various organizations and educational institutions across the state and the nation, and has conducted educational seminars on school desegregation, racism in the workplace, and affirmative action; and

WHEREAS, true to his mission of serving his fellow man, Clifton Lemelle continues to mentor young educators, youth of the community, and civil rights activists throughout Louisiana always remaining true to his personal philosophy that "strong faith and integrity will enable one to meet the challenges of serving humanity"; a mantra that Clifton Lemelle has proven everyday to the people of St. Landry Parish and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Clifton Lemelle Sr. who was entrusted with the sacred flame of striving for truth and justice in education, has honored that trust by keeping that flame burning brightly through tumultuous times and has served his community, parish, state, and nation with a strong faith and unwavering integrity; 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 his political party and displaying strong leadership throughout his career; and

WHEREAS, Clifton Lemelle Sr. has demonstrated a devotion to all of these principles of the St. Landry Democratic Party with a lifetime of efforts in the education and legal arenas championing these principles 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 Clifton Louis Lemelle Sr. upon the occasion of being named to the St. Landry Parish Democratic Party Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Clifton Louis Lemelle Sr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE