

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 107

BY REPRESENTATIVES LEOPOLD, ABRAHAM, ABRAMSON, AMEDEE, ANDERS, ARMES, BACALA, BAGLEY, BAGNERIS, BARRAS, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, BISHOP, BOUIE, BROADWATER, CHAD BROWN, TERRY BROWN, CARMODY, CARPENTER, GARY CARTER, ROBBY CARTER, STEVE CARTER, CHANEY, CONNICK, COUSSAN, COX, CREWS, CROMER, DANAHAY, DAVIS, DEVILLIER, DWIGHT, EDMONDS, EMERSON, FALCONER, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, GLOVER, GUINN, HALL, JIMMY HARRIS, LANCE HARRIS, HAVARD, HAZEL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILFERTY, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HORTON, HOWARD, HUNTER, HUVAL, IVEY, JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, JOHNSON, JONES, JORDAN, NANCY LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, LYONS, MACK, MAGEE, MARCELLE, MARINO, MCFARLAND, MIGUEZ, DUSTIN MILLER, GREGORY MILLER, MORENO, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, NORTON, PEARSON, PIERRE, POPE, PRICE, PUGH, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHRODER, SEABAUGH, SHADOIN, SIMON, SMITH, STAGNI, STEFANSKI, STOKES, TALBOT, THIBAUT, THOMAS, WHITE, AND ZERINGUE AND SENATORS ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD, AND WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Mr. Blaine S. Kern upon the momentous occasion of his ninetieth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to congratulate and commend Mr. Blaine Kern upon the occasion of his ninetieth birthday; and

WHEREAS, Blaine Kern was born in Algiers on May 17, 1927; and

WHEREAS, at twelve years of age, Mr. Kern began helping his father, Roy, a sign painter; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kern spent his teenage years working on tugboats and shrimping on troll boats; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kern and his father painted their first Mardi Gras float together in 1932; and

WHEREAS, in 1945, when Mr. Kern was eighteen years old, he was drafted into World War II as it was ending; and

WHEREAS, after spending one year in Korea, Mr. Kern returned home to find his mother ill and in need of an operation; and

WHEREAS, to cover his mother's medical expenses, in 1947, Mr. Kern painted a mural in a hospital that caught the eye of Dr. Henry LaRocca of Algiers; and

WHEREAS, Dr. LaRocca, who was the captain of the Krewe of Alla, invited Mr. Kern to design, build, and paint floats for his krewe; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kern was paid three thousand dollars to paint ten floats for his very first parade and the parade was a huge success; and

WHEREAS, in that same year, Blaine Kern Artists was founded; and

WHEREAS, after such great fortune with the Krewe of Alla, the captain of Rex hired Mr. Kern to build its parade; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kern traveled extensively to France, Spain, and Italy to study under the world's leading float and costume makers and found tremendous inspiration in the European style of float making; and

WHEREAS, upon his return to New Orleans, Mr. Kern's success as a legendary float maker was cemented in history when he invented the double deck float, multiple unit floats, and animated floats; and

WHEREAS, because of great public interest in float making, in 1984, Mr. Kern created and opened Mardi Gras World as a "behind the scenes" tourist attraction that annually draws more than one hundred fifty thousand visitors from around the world; and

WHEREAS, through his founding of Blaine Kern Artists and Mardi Gras World, Mr. Kern has single-handedly created thousands of jobs in the city of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kern left an indelible mark on the 1984 World's Fair in having created widely recognized pieces including its entrance, the Wonderwall, and the gondola; and

WHEREAS, from 1957 to 2007, Mr. Kern served as the captain of the Krewe of Alla; and

WHEREAS, while Blaine Kern has been instrumental in the evolution of the New Orleans' Mardi Gras and the development of over eighty krewes worldwide, opening Mardi Gras to everyone is what Mr. Kern cherishes as his proudest achievement; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kern has been recognized by the city of New Orleans, the state of Louisiana, hundreds of charitable organizations, and Holy Cross University, which has named its library in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kern is deservedly known far and wide as "Mr. Mardi Gras"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kern is one of Louisiana's finest sons, and his ninetieth birthday is a joyous event that deserves heartfelt congratulations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Blaine S. Kern upon the historic occasion of his ninetieth birthday, does hereby record for posterity the extraordinary life he has lived in the nine decades since his birth, does hereby express enduring gratitude for his outstanding accomplishments and the singular contributions he has made to his family, friends, community, and state, and does hereby extend to him every good wish for health and happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Blaine S. Kern.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE