

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 173

BY REPRESENTATIVE GAINES

A RESOLUTION

To commend St. John the Baptist Parish Public School District Superintendent Kevin R. George upon being awarded the 12th Annual VH1 Save the Music Foundation Award for Distinguished Support of Music Education.

WHEREAS, Kevin R. George is the superintendent of the St. John the Baptist Parish Public School District in Reserve, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, during the National Conference on Education of the AASA, The School Superintendents Association, held in March of 2017 in New Orleans, Louisiana, Mr. George was awarded the 12th Annual VH1 Save the Music Foundation Administrator Award for Distinguished Support of Music Education; and

WHEREAS, the VH1 Save the Music Foundation Administrator Award for Distinguished Support of Music Education recognizes one superintendent or school chief executive officer who has exhibited outstanding commitment to restoring music education in his or her school district; and

WHEREAS, Mr. George was chosen to receive this distinguished award for his deep commitment to providing St. John the Baptist Parish students with music education as part of the community's well-rounded curriculum; and

WHEREAS, the VH1 Save The Music Foundation is a nonprofit organization founded in 1997 and dedicated to restoring instrumental music education programs in America's public schools and raising awareness about the importance of music as part of each child's complete education; and

WHEREAS, when the VH1 Save the Music Foundation began its partnership with St. John the Baptist Parish public schools in 2013, there were no music programs in any kindergarten through eighth grade schools in Mr. George's district; and

WHEREAS, Mr. George, along with the VH1 Save the Music Foundation, made it his mission to bring music education back for all students in all kindergarten through eighth grade schools in his district; and

WHEREAS, since 2013, Mr. George has hired eight full-time music teachers; and with Mr. George's commitment, the VH1 Save the Music Foundation has donated \$170,000 worth of new musical instruments to West St. John Elementary, LaPlace Elementary, John L. Ory Communication Arts Magnet School, Emily C. Watkins Elementary, and Garyville-Mt. Airy Math & Science Magnet School, and is planning to donate band instruments to the remaining three schools in the district by fall of 2017; and

WHEREAS, Mr. George's work in the St. John the Baptist Parish School District has been a shining example of what public school music programs should strive to achieve; and

WHEREAS, through Mr. George's partnership with the VH1 Save the Music Foundation and the St. John the Baptist Parish Public School District, all public schools in that parish now have full-time music teachers and will have thriving band programs by the fall of 2017.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Mr. Kevin R. George upon being awarded VH1 Save the Music Foundation's 12th Annual Administrator Award for Distinguished Support of Music Education and his commitment to ensuring equitable access to music and the arts for all students in St. John the Baptist Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mr. Kevin R. George.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES