

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 213

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

A RESOLUTION

To commend Estelle Brown upon her 2018 induction into the Louisiana Folklife Center Hall of Master Folk Artists.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Folklife Center is an agency of Northwestern State University of Louisiana and was established in 1976; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Louisiana Folklife Center is to identify, document, and present Louisiana's rich history of folklore and folklife, and the center serves as an archival repository for many folklife materials; and

WHEREAS, the Hall of Master Folk Artists, which was started in 1981, currently has more than one hundred distinguished inducted honorees in celebration of Louisiana's vibrant and diverse folk culture; and

WHEREAS, fifty years ago, Estelle Brown and some friends formed the all-girl vocal group Sweet Inspirations who were the top backup singers for Atlantic Records artists Aretha Franklin, Van Morrison, Dusty Springfield, Dionne Warwick, and Jimi Hendrix; and

WHEREAS, the distinctive harmonies of the Sweet Inspirations are recorded on some of the most iconic songs in music history, including *Chain of Fools*, *Natural Woman*, *Brown-Eyed Girl*, *Son of a Preacher Man*, and *Do You Know the Way to San José?*; and

WHEREAS, artists in their own right, Sweet Inspirations recorded the hit song *Sweet Inspiration*, and in 1969, Estelle and her group accepted an invitation from Elvis Presley to tour with him; they performed more than a thousand shows with Elvis until his death in 1977; and

WHEREAS, Estelle Brown is a proud Louisiana resident who is fully immersed in the state's music and culture; she has performed with James Burton and Johnny Earthquake

and The Moondogs; she helps raise money for music-related charities and does television appearances and school visits where she shares the rich history of rock and roll and rhythm and blues; and

WHEREAS, Estelle may be counted among a select group of singers who have performed with both a king and a queen: Elvis Presley, the King of Rock and Roll, and Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul; Estelle Brown merits a special measure of commendation upon her 2018 induction into the Louisiana Folklife Center Hall of Master Folk Artists.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Estelle Brown upon her 2018 induction into the Louisiana Folklife Center Hall of Master Folk Artists; does hereby congratulate her on the many musical milestones she has achieved; and does hereby extend to her every good wish for continued success, prosperity, and happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Estelle Brown.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES