

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

BY SENATOR CARTER AND REPRESENTATIVE LYONS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Arthur "Art" Lanon Neville.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the Legislature of Louisiana learned of the passing of Art Neville, in New Orleans, Louisiana, at the age of eighty-one on July 22, 2019, after years of declining health; and

WHEREAS, Arthur Lanon Neville was born on December 17, 1937, the son of Amelia (Landry) and Arthur Neville Sr.; and

WHEREAS, he grew up in New Orleans and was a singer, songwriter, and keyboardist; and

WHEREAS, Art Neville started on piano and performed with his brothers at an early age and was influenced by the R&B styles of James Booker, Bill Doggett, Booker T. Jones, Lloyd Glenn, and Professor Longhair; and

WHEREAS, when in high school, he joined The Hawketts and, in 1954, recorded "Mardi Gras Mambo" that gained popularity and became a New Orleans carnival anthem; and

WHEREAS, Art Neville joined the United States Navy in 1958 and returned to music in 1962; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1960s, he formed the Neville Sounds which included Aaron Neville, Cyril Neville, George Porter, Leo Nocentelli, and Ziggy Modeliste playing at the Nitecap and the Ivanhoe nightclubs; and

WHEREAS, Art Neville backed many notable artists such as Lee Dorsey, Betty Harris, and the Pointer Sisters; his band had a strong sense of "groove" and, unlike traditional groups, each instrument was free to lead and go anywhere musically ... this style, over time, became known as "New Orleans Funk"; and

WHEREAS, he was a staple of the New Orleans music scene for more than five

decades; and

WHEREAS, Art Neville was the founder of the funk band The Meters whose musical style set the tone of New Orleans Funk, and also co-founder of the rock-soul-jazz band, The Neville Brothers, and he later formed the spinoff group, The Funky Meters; and

WHEREAS, he performed on many recordings by notable artists from New Orleans and elsewhere, including Patti Labelle, Paul McCartney, Lee Dorsey, Robert Palmer, Dr. John, Professor Longhair, and Chocolate Milk; and

WHEREAS, Art Neville and his band gained notoriety in the rock music community including Paul McCartney, Robert Palmer, and The Rolling Stones, which had a lasting impact on upcoming musical styles such as hip-hop, as well as jam bands, including Phish, Galactic, and The Red Hot Chili Peppers; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, Art Neville and his brothers Cyril, Aaron, and Charles formed The Neville Brothers who were previously working with The Wild Tchoupitoulas; and

WHEREAS, Art Neville & The Neville Brothers released their first album in 1978 and in 1981 famous music critic, Stephen Holden, wrote: "The Neville Brothers' style of soul music combines funk, doo-wop, reggae, and salsa under the banner of New Orleans rhythm and blues"; and

WHEREAS, Art Neville performed many shows with the original Meters bandmates including a 1989 reunion at the New Orleans Jazz Festival, and following that performance, Neville, Porter, Nocentelli, and Russell Batiste formed The Funky Meters; and

WHEREAS, he received a Grammy in 1989 with the Neville Brothers for Best Pop Instrumental Performance; and

WHEREAS, Art Neville received a Grammy in 1996 with various artists for Best Rock Instrumental Performance in "SRV Shuffle" a tribute to Stevie Ray Vaughan; and

WHEREAS, he was nominated for a Grammy in 1999 in the category of Best Traditional R&B Vocal Performance and also received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018 as a member of The Meters; and

WHEREAS, Art Neville retired from music in December 2018 and Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards released statements in recognition of his contributions to New Orleans music; and

WHEREAS, Art Neville is survived by his wife of thirty-three years, Lorraine; three children, Arthel, Ian, and Amelia; a sister and his two brothers, Aaron and Cyril.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its deepest condolences on the death of Arthur "Art" Lanon Neville, and does hereby commend him posthumously for the incredible legacy he left with his community, state, and nation, and offer thoughts and prayers for peace and comfort to those who mourn him.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Arthur Lanon Neville.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES