

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 215

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend the equine industry in St. Landry Parish for its cultural and economic impact to the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the equine industry has long served an integral and irreplaceable part of the Louisiana economy; and

WHEREAS, a recent report indicates that the horse racing industry accounts for over twelve thousand direct jobs and over three hundred million dollars in annual earnings in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is among the nation's leaders in horse breeding, and home to many farms and training facilities with many of them located in St. Landry Parish; and

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish is the home to numerous equine sales that attracts a national and international clientele; and

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish has long been recognized as a hub of activity for the horse racing industry in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, as the home of one of only four live racing facilities in Louisiana, Evangeline Downs in Opelousas hosts both thoroughbred and quarter horse meets throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, Evangeline Downs has the distinction of being the only "racino" in the nation built from the ground up; and

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish is home of one of the nation's few farms that serves as a home for retired race horses who have found new life in guiding kids, families, and corporate teams to better leadership in equine assisted learning; and

WHEREAS, the equine tradition in St. Landry Parish does not end with the racing industry; and

WHEREAS, the famous "Step and Strut" trail ride originated in St. Landry Parish; and

WHEREAS, Opelousas native Mia Manzanares is a two-time women's all-around College National Finals Rodeo champion and member of the 2018 national championship from McNeese State University; and

WHEREAS, Professional Rodeo Hall of Fame member Steve Duhon also hails from Opelousas; and

WHEREAS, Academy of the Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau, famously the sight of the only Vatican-recognized miracle in the United States of America, is home to a nationally-recognized equestrian center for its students who train in three disciplines, including hunter/jumper, dressage, and western; and

WHEREAS, rodeos are held throughout the year in towns all over St. Landry Parish; and

WHEREAS, the proposed multipurpose event center near Evangeline Downs, as part of the Gateway to Acadiana Master Plan, will serve as an ideal location for the professional rodeo circuit.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the equine industry in St. Landry Parish for its cultural and economic impact to the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize St. Landry Parish as state and national leader in the equine industry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chief executive officer of St. Landry Economic Development, the president of St. Landry Parish, and all members of the St. Landry Parish Council.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE