

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 25

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Rebecca Davis Henry upon her induction into the St. Landry Parish Democratic Party Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, Rebecca Davis was born in Leonville, Louisiana, graduated from George Washington Carver High School in Sunset, Louisiana, and attended Bankstreet College in Washington, D.C. and Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, a sharecropper's daughter, Rebecca grew up in the countryside around Opelousas, spent her youth picking cotton in the fields with her siblings, and a career working as a teacher's aide for children with language disorders; and

WHEREAS, Rebecca speaks both English and French fluently and has dedicated much of her time on efforts to preserve the Creole traditions of her youth, particularly teaching and sharing folk medical traditions and educating others about the life, music, art, cooking, and spirituality that composes Creole culture; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Henry has been recognized by numerous entities for her many skills and talents as a poet, storyteller, writer, dollmaker, festival organizer, teacher, and artist; and

WHEREAS, as a columnist she writes for the monthly *Creole Magazine* and is a published author of a book of Creole traditions; and

WHEREAS, she founded Creole Heritage, Inc. and the Creole Heritage Folklife Center in Opelousas, Louisiana; she was instrumental in organizing the Opelousas community events of Martin Luther King Celebration of Opelousas, Sharecropper's Day, and Juneteenth Folklife Celebration; and she initiated, along with her granddaughter, the Creole Cultural Summer Enrichment Program for children in Opelousas; and

WHEREAS, as an artist, Mrs. Henry is listed on the Louisiana State Artist Roster, has been accepted into the Louisiana Crafts Marketing Program for her Creole dollhouse collection and her okra angels, and her art has been displayed and recognized by the Presidential Offices of both Bill Clinton and Barack Obama; and

WHEREAS, her other accolades include the founding of the Creole Quilters, a group of nine members who created the St. Landry Parish quilt square for the state's bicentennial quilt in 2012, and has been a featured folklife presenter at festivals and forums throughout Louisiana, including the Festival International de Louisiana, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, the Southwest Louisiana Zydeco Music Festival, the Creole Festival, Festival Acadiens, Shadows-on-the Teche, and Vermilionville's Creole and Cajun Day; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Henry also teaches Creole French to adults and a class in folklife medicine at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette; and

WHEREAS, when asked about her work, Mrs. Henry notes that she doesn't feel that she has done enough for there are far too many more souls to be touched; and

WHEREAS, today Mrs. Henry lives in Opelousas, Louisiana, with her loving husband, Elton Henry, for over fifty years and they are the proud parents of six children and blessed with thirteen grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Democratic Parish Executive Committee biennially considers persons of high ethical and moral character who have promoted the principles of constitutional equality, personal liberty, economic opportunity, and government and fiscal responsibility who has positively influenced the entire parish and the state; and

WHEREAS, as recipient of its Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, St. Landry Parish Democratic Party considers Mrs. Henry to be a person who recognizes and respects the diversity of all Americans and promotes the common unity of all, leading her political party and displaying strong leadership throughout her career; and

WHEREAS, Rebecca Davis Henry demonstrates a devotion to all of the principles of the St. Landry Parish Democratic Party with a lifetime championing principles that are so essential to the ideas of American democracy; and

WHEREAS, during the Lifetime Achievement Banquet to be held on April 7, 2022, Rebecca Davis Henry will be inducted into the St. Landry Parish Democratic Party Hall of Fame.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Rebecca Davis Henry upon her induction into the St. Landry Parish Democratic Party Hall of Fame.

SR NO. 25

ENROLLED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
Rebecca Davis Henry.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE