

2026 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 24

BY SENATOR STINE

COMMENDATIONS. Commends the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and celebrates the 2026 Bright Lights Awards Honorees.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and to recognize and celebrate
3 the 2026 Bright Lights Awards Honorees for their outstanding contribution to the
4 cultural and educational fabric of Louisiana.

5 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) has served the
6 people of Louisiana for fifty-five years by promoting education, preserving history, and
7 enriching public life through the humanities; and

8 WHEREAS, LEH's mission to foster learning, literacy, and a deeper understanding
9 of Louisiana's diverse people and stories has empowered generations of Louisiana families,
10 educators, and lifelong learners; and

11 WHEREAS, each year, LEH hosts the Bright Lights Awards Dinner to honor
12 individuals and organizations whose work exemplifies the values of the humanities and
13 whose contributions meaningfully preserve and celebrate Louisiana's cultural identity; and

14 WHEREAS, the 2026 Bright Lights honorees have made significant and lasting
15 impacts on Louisiana's cultural, educational, and historical landscape through their
16 exceptional work and dedication to the humanities; and

17 WHEREAS, the 2026 honorees include:

- 18 • Michael Doucet, recipient of the Humanist of the Year award, in recognition

1 of his extraordinary contributions to Cajun music, language, and culture as the founder of
2 the internationally acclaimed band BeauSoleil;

3 • Pam Atchison, named Champion of Culture, for her remarkable tenure as
4 executive director of the Shreveport Regional Arts Council for thirty-eight years;

5 • The RosaMary Foundation and the Keller Family Foundation, recipients of
6 the Chair's Award for Institutional Support, for each contributing more than twenty-five
7 years of support for the humanities in Louisiana;

8 • Kevin Rabalais, named Documentary Photographer of the Year, for his
9 extensive body of work documenting the everyday lives, traditions, and landscapes of
10 Louisiana;

11 • Don Marshall, recipient of the Lifetime Contributions to the Humanities
12 award, for his career and leadership supporting and uplifting the arts community in New
13 Orleans;

14 • Debra Jo Hailey, recipient of the Light Up for Literacy award, for her
15 lifelong dedication to improving literacy across Louisiana through family literacy festivals
16 and educational outreach;

17 • Thomas Patterson, recipient of Humanities Book of the Year for *American*
18 *Populist: Huey Long of Louisiana*, for his vital contributions to historical scholarship on
19 Louisiana's storied governor;

20 • Sascha Just, honored for Humanities Documentary Film of the Year for *What*
21 *We Can Know About Edmond and Basile*, a film exploring the lives and musical legacies of
22 19th-century Creole composers; and

23 • The Historic New Orleans Collection, honored for Museum Exhibition of
24 the Year for *Captive State, Louisiana and the Making of Mass Incarceration*, an exhibition
25 that brought to life the historical connections between slavery and mass incarceration; and

26 WHEREAS, these honorees contribute to the illumination of Louisiana's rich
27 heritage, serve as inspiration to future generations, and embody the spirit of excellence in
28 service to the people and the stories of this great state.

29 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
30 does hereby commend the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities for its invaluable

1 contributions to education, culture, and public life and congratulates the 2026 Bright Lights
2 Awards Honorees for their inspiring work, affirming the continued importance of
3 humanities-based learning and cultural preservation in shaping Louisiana's future.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

SR 24 Original

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