

2026 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY SENATOR MIZELL

COMMENDATIONS. Commends James C. Walsh on being named the 2026 Hibernian of the Year in Louisiana.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend James C. Walsh on being named the 2026 Hibernian of the Year in Louisiana.

3 WHEREAS, it is most fitting to recognize James C. "Jimmy" Walsh for his many
4 achievements and to commend him for being recognized by the Ancient Order of Hibernians
5 of Louisiana as the 2026 Hibernian of the Year; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Walsh was born in 1940 in New Brunswick, New Jersey, to an
7 immigrant family; his father, James Patrick Walsh, immigrated from Charlestown, County
8 Mayo, Ireland, to the United States in the 1920s, while his mother, Elizabeth, and her family
9 arrived from Hungary and Czechoslovakia in the 1890s; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Walsh's first language was Hungarian, which he learned from his
11 beloved grandmother, Erzebet "Elsie" Nagy; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Walsh worked at automotive parts factories while taking night
13 classes at Rutgers University, and later enrolled at the University of Alabama, where he met
14 his lifelong friend, client, business partner, and future NFL Hall of Fame quarterback, Joe
15 Namath, and he also befriended future New Orleans civic leader, Eddie Sapir; and

16 WHEREAS, after completing his undergraduate degree, Mr. Walsh remained in
17 Tuscaloosa, Alabama, to attend the University of Alabama School of Law, and upon earning
18 his juris doctor, he began his legal career in New York City; and

1 WHEREAS, although Mr. Walsh initially practiced civil defense, he began using his
2 legal talents to negotiate contracts and endorsements for Namath; proving himself to be an
3 innovator in sports and entertainment law; and

4 WHEREAS, he successfully secured endorsements and ventures ranging from
5 typewriters and razors to television appearances, including Namath's iconic deal to promote
6 Beautymist pantyhose; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Walsh co-founded a law firm with Johnny Carson's attorney and
8 manager, Henry Bushkin, and film producer and financier, Arnold Kopelson; and

9 WHEREAS, his success in the business grew with a client roster that included other
10 prominent athletes, such as NFL quarterback, Doug Williams, and professional boxer, Sean
11 O'Grady; and

12 WHEREAS, in the 1970s, Mr. Walsh discovered comedian, Andy Kaufman, in New
13 York and served as the comedian's first agent and manager and secured various performance
14 slots for Kaufman at prominent clubs in New York City; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1979, Mr. Walsh met local fashion maven, Yvonne LaFleur, during
16 a flight from New Orleans to New York; and sparked a romance with her six months later
17 while visiting Lucky Pierre's in New Orleans, eventually leading to their marriage in 1981;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Walsh relocated to New Orleans after marrying Yvonne, where
20 they raised seven children together; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Walsh won an Emmy for his role as an executive producer of the
22 HBO Sports documentary, Namath, and has also served as a longtime member of the
23 founding board of the Joe Namath Charitable Foundation; and

24 WHEREAS, James C. "Jimmy" Walsh is most deserving of this commendable honor
25 as the 2026 Hibernian of the Year for his outstanding leadership and dedication to
26 friendship, unity, and Christian charity.

27 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
28 does hereby commend James C. "Jimmy" Walsh on being named the 2026 Hibernian of the
29 Year in Louisiana and does hereby extend sincere wishes that he remain prosperous in all
30 of his endeavors.

