

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY SENATOR MIZELL

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE