

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 79

BY SENATOR LUNEAU

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Grambling State University upon the celebration of the centennial of the Grambling State University "World Famed" Tiger Marching Band and to recognize its outstanding contributions to music, education, culture, and the proud heritage of the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Grambling State University is celebrating the centennial of its "World Famed" Tiger Marching Band, marking one hundred years since the band's founding in 1926; and

WHEREAS, in 1926, founder and president of Grambling State University Charles P. Adams requested Ralph Waldo Emerson Jones to establish and organize a marching band, and with only seventeen instruments, Ralph Jones began laying the foundation for a proud and enduring musical tradition; and

WHEREAS, from these humble beginnings, the Grambling State University Tiger Marching Band has grown into one of the most distinguished collegiate marching bands in the nation and has long served as a premier ambassador for Grambling State University and the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1952, under the leadership of renowned director Conrad Hutchinson Jr., the band was elevated to new heights of precision, discipline, and artistry and became widely known as "The Best Band in the Land"; and

WHEREAS, the Grambling State University Tiger Marching Band has earned national and international recognition through performances on some of the most prominent stages in the world, including major collegiate and professional sporting events, such as its historic appearance at Super Bowl I, United States Presidential Inaugural Parades and inaugural events, international performances, and major motion pictures and national media; and

WHEREAS, the band has continued for generations to showcase musical excellence, cultural pride, and the distinctive tradition of historically Black college and university marching bands, inspiring audiences across Louisiana, the nation, and the world; and

WHEREAS, the Grambling State University Tiger Marching Band has long been an integral part of the tradition and pageantry of the Bayou Classic, contributing to one of Louisiana's most celebrated annual cultural and collegiate events; and

WHEREAS, through its commitment to discipline, artistry, and excellence, the band has provided generations of students with opportunities for musical achievement, leadership development, and service to the university; and

WHEREAS, the band continues to serve as a source of pride and unity for students, alumni, faculty, staff, and supporters and remains an enduring symbol of the heritage and spirit of Grambling State University; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of the centennial of the Grambling State University Tiger Marching Band is a fitting occasion to recognize and honor the directors, student musicians, staff, alumni, and supporters whose dedication and talent have sustained this proud legacy for one hundred years.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Grambling State University upon the celebration of the centennial of the Grambling State University "World Famed" Tiger Marching Band and does hereby recognize its outstanding contributions to music, education, culture, and the proud heritage of the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Martin Lemelle, Jr., President of Grambling State University.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES