

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 170

BY SENATOR LAFLEUR

A RESOLUTION

To commend Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana Chairman Earl Barbry Sr. on receiving the inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award from the United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated.

WHEREAS, Chairman Barbry was raised on the Tunica-Biloxi Reservation in Marksville, Louisiana, where he learned early on that he was part of a clan unique to the area; and

WHEREAS, Chairman Barbry is descended from a long, unbroken line of Tunica-Biloxi chiefs and learned much from his grandfather, Elijah Barbry, who was the first activist chief in Louisiana to attempt to get a federal response to the needs of the Louisiana Indian people; and

WHEREAS, Chairman Barbry was elected Tribal Chairman in 1978 and was appointed as Tribal Administrator that same year and has continued to serve in those capacities continuously since then; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Chairman Barbry, amazing changes have taken place on the reservation and where once there were barren fields and wooded areas with a few shanties scattered about, now one may see a unique and modern housing development, Tribal Administrative Office, a Health Department and Social Services Office, Gaming Board and Gaming Commission Office, Tribal Police, and Court Building; and

WHEREAS, under Chairman Barbry's leadership, the Tunica-Biloxi repatriated artifacts looted from their 18th century cemetery near St. Francisville and court action initiated by Tunica-Biloxi helped build the foundation for the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act; and

WHEREAS, Chairman Barbry has carefully overseen the construction of major housing developments, paved roads, tribal center, court complex, welfare office, as well as a hotel-casino recreation complex and a new multi-million dollar cultural and education center; and

WHEREAS, Barbry was named the recipient of the Avoyellean of the Year Award in 1993 by the Avoyelles Journal, the highest award given in the parish and in 1996, the Marksville Chamber of Commerce named him Minority Businessman of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Chairman Barbry received the 2005 Leadership Award of the National Indian Gaming Association and the next year, he was named a Louisiana Legend by Louisiana Public Broadcasting in recognition of his cultural, educational and economic contributions to the region and the state, the first American Indian to ever receive this high honor; and

WHEREAS, Chairman Barbry admits that all of his accomplishments would never have been possible without his loving wife, Gail, his two sons and his two grandchildren.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its highest commendations on Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana Chairman Earl Barbry Sr. on receiving the inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award from the United South and Eastern Tribes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Tunica-Biloxi Tribe Chairman Earl Barbry Sr.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE