

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 83

BY REPRESENTATIVE JAMES

COMMENDATIONS: Commends the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society for its contributions to the legal profession and the community and recognizes April 16, 2014, as Louis A. Martinet Day at the La. State Capitol

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society for its contributions to the legal  
3 profession and community and to recognize April 16, 2014, as Louis A. Martinet  
4 Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

5 WHEREAS, the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society is the result of the efforts of Earl  
6 J. Amedee, Israel M. Augustine, Norman C. Francis, Benjamin J. Johnson, Alvin Jones,  
7 Ernest N. Morial, Justice Revius Ortique, A. P. Tureaud, and others in seeking to combat the  
8 injustices and inequalities that existed in the 1950s regarding the legal profession; and

9 WHEREAS, it was during that tumultuous time that Jim Crow dominated every  
10 aspect of African-American life and African-American attorneys were barred from  
11 participating in the mainstream of the nation's legal profession; and

12 WHEREAS, the founding members of Louis A. Martinet Legal Society organized  
13 for professional support and to focus their skills and training to combat Jim Crow in their  
14 communities and in the courtrooms; and

15 WHEREAS, the society is named in honor of a pioneer in the legal profession, Louis  
16 André Martinet who was the first African-American graduate at Straight University Law  
17 School, which is now named Dillard University; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Martinet graduated law school in 1876, one year after he passed the  
19 Louisiana Bar Examination; and

1           WHEREAS, in addition to being an attorney Mr. Martinet was a politician, educator,  
2 activist, journalist, medical doctor, notary, and a key figure in the civil rights activities  
3 surrounding the end of Reconstruction; and

4           WHEREAS, many of the Martinet Legal Society's objectives upon its founding  
5 remain the same today; the members are able to exchange ideas, promote legal scholarship,  
6 advance the science of jurisprudence, promote the administration of justice, and uphold the  
7 order and ethics of the courts to promote the welfare of the legal profession; and

8           WHEREAS, there are Louis A. Martinet Legal Society chapters across the state that  
9 promote the same doctrine; and

10           WHEREAS, the society is greatly involved in the community through projects such  
11 as the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project, Annual Scholarship and Awards  
12 Gala, Pro Bono Project, Reading Project, Bar Scholarship Program, and several other  
13 programs in conjunction with Martinet's affiliates: the National Bar Association, Louisiana  
14 State Bar Association, Baton Rouge Bar Association, The Louisiana Legislative Black  
15 Caucus, Black Law Students Association, Louisiana Judicial Conference, and other Martinet  
16 chapters across the state; and

17           WHEREAS, the Martinet Legal Society has provided hundreds of students with  
18 scholarships to attend undergraduate and law school within the state of Louisiana and has  
19 served as the backbone and resource to civil rights litigation, education initiatives, and  
20 professional development of many African-American and minority attorneys.

21           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
22 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society for its  
23 contributions to the legal profession and community and recognizes April 16, 2014, as the  
24 first Louis A. Martinet Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to  
26 Christopher B. Hebert, president of the Baton Rouge chapter and Rachael Johnson, president  
27 of the New Orleans chapter.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]

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James

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