

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 188

BY SENATOR MURRAY

A RESOLUTION

To commend Bernard Chatters on being elected the first African American president of the Louisiana Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association.

WHEREAS, horse owner and trainer Bernard Chatters was elected president of the Louisiana Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association in a run-off election held April 28, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association was formed in 1940 by a group of committed horsemen in New England; and

WHEREAS, Bernard Chatters is the first African American to hold the post as president; and

WHEREAS, nationally, the association has developed into an organization representing the interest of horsemen on a myriad of issues; and

WHEREAS, there currently are over thirty thousand owner and trainer members of the association throughout the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, Bernard Chatters, born and educated in New Orleans, Louisiana, has a genuine love for horses and horse racing; and

WHEREAS, the New Orleans native has resided for the past fourteen years in Lake Charles, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Bernard Chatters worked part-time as a hot-walker and a groomer at the fairgrounds and the old Jefferson Downs racetracks, while earning his degree in sociology and criminology from Dillard University, and this firsthand experience at the lower level of the industry served him well once he became an owner and trainer; and

WHEREAS, Bernard Chatters has secured licenses in Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, New York, and Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, as a horseman and family man, Bernard Chatters has come to know the ups and downs of the horse racing industry; and

WHEREAS, Bernard Chatters believes that the core of thriving racetrack, farm, or racehorse operation is good management combined with respect and careful consideration for all involved; and

WHEREAS, Bernard Chatters said that he "has a commitment to using the post as a means of developing a progressive agenda which will be consistent with the association's mission to improve horse racing across the state"; and

WHEREAS, he promises to maintain a steadfast approach with respect to tradition, honor, and integrity issues; and

WHEREAS, he commits to the reforming of payment procedures, developing a trainer financed retirement account, and improving the knowledge level regarding the horse racing industry among legislators and others; and

WHEREAS, Bernard Chatters has been actively involved in the current session of the Louisiana Legislature, advocating for the passage of progressive legislation and the defeat of other legislation that would be detrimental to the horse racing industry.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Bernard Chatters on being elected the first African American president of the Louisiana Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Bernard Chatters and the Louisiana Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE