

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 230

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLARD

COMMENDATIONS: Commends author Wiletta Ferdinand for her authorship of *Jack Conrad and the 1887 Thibodaux Massacre: Enslaved Man, Union Soldier, Voice, and Survivor of the 1887 Thibodaux Massacre*

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend author Wiletta Ferdinand for her authorship of *Jack Conrad and the 1887*
3 *Thibodaux Massacre: Enslaved Man, Union Soldier, Voice, and Survivor of the*
4 *1887 Thibodaux Massacre.*

5 WHEREAS, it is most fitting to recognize Wiletta Ferdinand for her incredible
6 writing career and commend her for her new book, *Jack Conrad and the 1887 Thibodaux*
7 *Massacre: Enslaved Man, Union Soldier, Voice, and Survivor of the 1887 Thibodaux*
8 *Massacre*; and

9 WHEREAS, Wiletta is a retired high school English teacher, mother of four, and
10 grandmother of five who was born, raised, and educated in New Orleans; she attended
11 Xavier University, Howard University, and the University of New Orleans; she recently
12 received a master's degree in museum studies from Southern University at New Orleans; and

13 WHEREAS, Wiletta possesses an affinity for the history and culture of New Orleans,
14 and her books and blog reflect this passion; she also serves as her family's historian and
15 organizes the family trees on both the maternal and paternal sides of her family; and

16 WHEREAS, though Wiletta grew up in New Orleans, she spent every summer with
17 her grandmother in Thibodaux, Louisiana; her most recent historical work delves into the
18 experience of her ancestor from Thibodaux, her great-great-grandfather Jack Conrad; and

19 WHEREAS, Jack Conrad was born into slavery in 1834 and won his freedom
20 fighting as a soldier in the Union Army during the Civil War; he returned to his home in

1 Thibodaux after the war to work as a sharecropper at a sugar cane plantation; Wiletta picks
2 up his story as he is caught in the midst of the 1887 Thibodaux Massacre; and

3 WHEREAS, Ms. Ferdinand's retelling of Jack Conrad's story reveals that his son,
4 Grant Conrad, and brother-in-law were killed when white vigilante mobs stormed the black
5 neighborhood of Back-a-town to end the resident sharecropper's strike for fair wages; and

6 WHEREAS, Ms. Ferdinand hopes to continue to shed light on a once forgotten act
7 of viciousness that took place in Thibodaux, Louisiana; she is most deserving of the highest
8 recognition for her pursuit of objective truth and the preservation of all history in her new
9 book, *Jack Conrad and the 1887 Thibodaux Massacre: Enslaved Man, Union Soldier, Voice,*
10 *and Survivor of the 1887 Thibodaux Massacre.*

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
12 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend author Wiletta Ferdinand for her authorship
13 of *Jack Conrad and the 1887 Thibodaux Massacre: Enslaved Man, Union Soldier, Voice,*
14 *and Survivor of the 1887 Thibodaux Massacre;* does hereby further recognize her for
15 preserving a tragic, but crucially relevant moment in Louisiana history; and does hereby
16 extend sincere hopes that she continue her inspiring work so that the history of Louisiana can
17 be preserved for the education of future generations.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
19 Wiletta Ferdinand.

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)]

HR 230 Original

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