

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23

BY SENATOR FOIL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Dale Murray of Baton Rouge upon his 2024 induction into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, on a summer day in 2024, Glenn Dale Murray Jr., known as Dale, received a surprise phone call in which he learned that the honor of a lifetime for a Louisiana musician would be bestowed on him, finding out that he would be inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Dale was born and raised in Baton Rouge, where he began learning music as a child, and graduated from Baton Rouge High School in 1964; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1950s, he and Phil Guay, his lifelong best friend with whom he grew up on Adams Avenue, were captivated by the rock & roll and New Orleans R&B bands that performed at the Friday night CYO dances they attended, and each of them knew then that they wanted a life in music; and

WHEREAS, Dale and Phil began playing music professionally while still in high school, achieving local fame, Dale as a guitarist and Phil as a bassist, with their bands, The Barons and The Mersey Sounds, and recording for Montel-Michelle Records at Baton Rouge's Montel Studios; Dale later formed The Factory and Delta Freight and toured widely with the groups, Buffalo and Sweet Pepper; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Dale and other great musicians have had a knack for finding each other; and

WHEREAS, one notable connection happened early on when Dale, still in his teens, hired as The Barons' lead singer Kent Rowell, a fourteen year old kid who had the biggest voice he'd ever heard and with that gig, Rowell (1948-2024), later known as Luther Kent, launched an illustrious career that, in 2011, earned him induction into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, while enrolled at Louisiana State University, Dale performed, recorded, and taught music and, more significantly, met the love of his life, Anne, whom he married in 1969; and

WHEREAS, with his music career gaining momentum, Dale packed his gear into his blue Ford Econoline panel van and left LSU for the graduate school of music known as "The Road", with Anne often traveling by his side; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960s and 1970s, his career took him and his bands everywhere from the celebrated Cosimo Recording Studios and Sea-Saint Studio in New Orleans to stages from Amarillo, Texas, to Charleston, South Carolina, and countless points in between on the Gulf South circuit; and

WHEREAS, his furthest-flung engagements were with his group, Delta Freight, on a ten-week tour of western Canada that included stops in Vancouver and Victoria, British Columbia and an unforgettably cold six-week stint as the house band at the Explorer Hotel in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories during November and December, 1976; and

WHEREAS, although Dale traveled extensively in this golden era of live music, his favorite gigs were at legendary clubs closer to home such as The Sands in Old Jefferson just outside New Orleans, The College Inn in Thibodaux, and The Colonel's Club and The Speakeasy in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, Dale and his bands toured for as many as fifty weeks in some years and through this experience, he became a seasoned performer and respected bandleader and business manager; and

WHEREAS, as Dale's career progressed, he made his first forays into songwriting, publishing, and producing, did session work at RCA Studios in Nashville, transitioned from guitar to bass, and furthered his music education through correspondence courses in composition from the Berklee College of Music; and

WHEREAS, in the latter half of the 1970s, Dale made the most momentous decision of his life and walked away from music, the only work he'd ever known, to be a dad; and

WHEREAS, Dale's music career had a brief but brilliant resurgence in 1981 when he went into Studio in the Country in Bogalusa with the renowned band, LeRoux, a 2006 Louisiana Music Hall of Fame (LMHOF) inductee, to record a ten-song album; Dale wrote for, played on, and co-produced the recording, released as "LeRoux: The Session Years featuring Carl Michaels", with his songwriting and producing partner, Rex Pearce, a fellow 2024 LMHOF inductee; and

WHEREAS, around that time, Dale finally sold the Econoline, which had crisscrossed North America for a decade and a half but was still running like a dream, and began a long hiatus from music; and

WHEREAS, he became an exemplary family man, working long hours for over thirty years at a welding supply company to provide for his family but always making time for his kids, and outside of work he enjoyed coaching American Legion and Baton Rouge Fall League youth baseball and bringing his family to LSU sporting events; and

WHEREAS, after retiring from his daytime job, Dale went right back to the music world as if he'd never left it, composing for, performing on, and co-producing acclaimed singer Floyd Brown's 2015 EP titled "Raising Cane On The Bayou", as well as two projects by a supergroup of studio musicians that he, Rex, and Nelson Blanchard of LeRoux and Techno Sound Studio assembled: the 2022 album "Run To Daylight" by The Groove Krewe featuring Nick Daniels III (1955-2024), and the 2023 EP "Blues From The Bayou" by The Groove Krewe featuring Jonathon "Boogie" Long; and

WHEREAS, "Run To Daylight" took off, with its title track reaching number one on the Roots Music Report's Soul and Blues chart in June of 2022 and several of its songs receiving extensive air play in the U.S. and Europe, and 2023 found Dale and Rex in the running for a Grammy for their song from that album titled "That's New Orleans," the song made it to the semifinal round of voting for a nomination in the Best American Roots Performance category, and while it did not advance from that round, the experience of coming so close to a Grammy nomination was thrilling for Dale; and

WHEREAS, Dale is a big-time fan and supporter of the Baton Rouge High School radio station, WBRH, a Louisiana music institution in its own right, and has been a repeat guest on the station's "Louisiana Gumbo" show hosted by Pat McBride; and

WHEREAS, throughout his long career both on stage and behind the scenes, Dale has been known as a "musician's musician" and truly one of the good guys in the music business; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame, as recognized by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 112 of the 2010 Regular Session, is the official honors and recognition organization and information resource for Louisiana's music, musicians, and musical

heritage; and

WHEREAS, Dale's August 26, 2024, induction into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame is a wonderful tribute to the music career of a man who has worked hard, done right, followed his heart, and exemplified the very best of Louisiana's culture.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Glenn Dale Murray Jr., upon his August 26, 2024, induction into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame and does hereby extend to him best wishes for continued good health and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Glenn Dale Murray Jr.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES