

2025 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 117

BY SENATOR KLEINPETER

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH. Provides for West Baton Rouge Parish Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend West Baton Rouge Parish for its outstanding achievements and to designate
3 Tuesday, May 20, 2025, as West Baton Rouge Parish Day at the Louisiana State
4 Capitol.

5 WHEREAS, the West Baton Rouge Parish is home to numerous historical sites,
6 beautiful landscapes, and significant contributions to the arts, agriculture, commerce,
7 education, commitment to community values, industry, and distinguished citizens that enrich
8 the cultural tapestry of Louisiana; and

9 WHEREAS, declaring a special day in honor of West Baton Rouge Parish serves to
10 acknowledge the contributions of its citizens and to celebrate the unique heritage that defines
11 this region; and

12 WHEREAS, May 20th presents an opportunity for the citizens of West Baton Rouge
13 Parish to come together in celebration of their accomplishments, foster community spirit,
14 and promote awareness of the local businesses, industry, and cultural activities; and

15 WHEREAS, West Baton Rouge Parish, strategically located along the west bank of
16 the Mississippi River directly across from Louisiana's capital city, serves as a gateway for
17 commerce and culture, contributing substantially to the state's economy and identity; and

18 WHEREAS, the Port of Greater Baton Rouge is one of the nation's busiest inland

1 ports, ranking 8th in the United States and 65th globally in annual total tonnage. In 2023, the
2 port handled 12,845,224 net tons of cargo, generating \$20.5 million in operating revenue and
3 supporting over 20,000 jobs statewide, solidifying its role as a major economic engine for
4 the state and region; and

5 WHEREAS, the parish's agricultural tradition, particularly in sugarcane farming,
6 continues to support local economies and preserve multi-generational family legacies rooted
7 in Louisiana's rural heritage; and

8 WHEREAS, West Baton Rouge Parish is a leader in education and workforce
9 development through the establishment of its Career and Technical Education Center,
10 offering students and adults access to training in high-demand fields such as healthcare,
11 welding, and process technology; and

12 WHEREAS, the parish preserves and celebrates its Creole and Cajun roots through
13 historical institutions like the West Baton Rouge Museum, and through vibrant community
14 festivals such as SugarFest and the Oldies But Goodies Fest, showcasing its music, culinary
15 traditions, and cultural pride; and

16 WHEREAS, West Baton Rouge Parish has been home to individuals who have made
17 remarkable contributions to Louisiana's cultural, educational, and civic landscape, including
18 legendary blues musician James "Slim Harpo" Moore; Dr. Charles P. Adams, the founding
19 president of Grambling State University; former associate justice of the Louisiana Supreme
20 Court Zénon Labauve Jr. from April 3, 1865 to November 1, 1868; and eighteen year old
21 John Foster, second place winner in the 2025 season of American Idol; and

22 WHEREAS, these distinguished individuals embody the strength, creativity, and
23 cultural richness of West Baton Rouge Parish, and their legacies continue to inspire future
24 generations.

25 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
26 does hereby recognize Tuesday, May 20, 2025, as West Baton Rouge Parish Day at the
27 Louisiana State Capitol, and commends the parish for its outstanding contributions to the
28 economic vitality, educational advancement, cultural heritage, and community leadership
29 of the state of Louisiana.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

