

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 117

BY SENATOR KLEINPETER

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Port of Greater Baton Rouge is one of the nation's busiest inland ports, ranking 8th in the United States and 65th globally in annual total tonnage; in 2023, the port handled 12,845,224 net tons of cargo, generating \$20.5 million in operating revenue and supporting over 20,000 jobs statewide, solidifying its role as a major economic engine for the state and region; and

WHEREAS, the parish's agricultural tradition, particularly in sugarcane farming, continues to support local economies and preserve multigenerational family legacies rooted in Louisiana's rural heritage; and

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the elected officials and community leaders of West Baton Rouge Parish as a formal expression of appreciation, pride, and ongoing support.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE