

2025 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 130

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

CONDOLENCES. Honors the life and legacy of Sidney "Sid " Joseph Williams Jr. and his impact on Zydeco music, Creole heritage, and decades of service to the Truman community.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of  
3 Louisiana upon the passing of Sidney "Sid" Joseph Williams Jr. and to celebrate his  
4 life, legacy, and immeasurable contributions as a visionary entrepreneur, cultural  
5 champion, and beloved community leader whose enduring influence helped shape  
6 the Creole and Zydeco traditions of Louisiana.

7 WHEREAS, it is with profound respect and heartfelt gratitude that the Senate of the  
8 Legislature of Louisiana recognizes the remarkable life and contributions of Sidney "Sid"  
9 Joseph Williams Jr., who passed away on February 2, 2025, at the age of seventy-three; and

10 WHEREAS, born on September 3, 1951, in Saint Martinville, Louisiana, to Sidney  
11 Joseph Williams Sr. and Florita Hypolite Williams, "Sid" was a proud native son whose life's  
12 work uplifted and preserved the musical and cultural heritage of Louisiana; and

13 WHEREAS, united in holy matrimony to Susanna Syner on July 6, 1973, their  
14 blessed union of fifty-three years produced a devoted family, including daughters; Rhonda  
15 Williams Brown, Jodi Williams Gonzalez, and Shelly Williams, and a cherished lineage of  
16 grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was the founder and owner of Elside's Zydeco and Blues  
18 Club in Lafayette, Louisiana, an iconic venue that became a beacon for Zydeco music,

1 serving as a launching pad for renowned artists including the Zydeco Cha Chas led by his  
2 brother Nathan Williams, Lil Nathan and the Zydeco Big Timers, and the legendary  
3 Buckwheat Zydeco; and

4 WHEREAS, his commitment to culture was matched by his heart for service; for  
5 more than twenty-seven years, Sid led the Annual Thanksgiving Zydeco Food Drive,  
6 mobilizing musicians and neighbors alike to provide nourishment and care to families in  
7 need - a labor of love that earned him the Jefferson Award for Public Service; and

8 WHEREAS, as the owner of Sid's One Stop in North Lafayette, he served not only  
9 as a neighborhood merchant, but as a confidant, mentor, and everyday hero whose kindness  
10 and wisdom left a lasting imprint on the lives he touched; and

11 WHEREAS, a self-taught musician and proud accordionist, Sid's talent and  
12 dedication led him to national stages, including an appearance in the 2024 Rose Bowl Parade  
13 in Pasadena, California; and

14 WHEREAS, his extraordinary career garnered numerous lifetime achievement  
15 awards which culminated in his induction into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame, in  
16 recognition of his transformative impact on Louisiana's musical legacy; and

17 WHEREAS, he further served his community as a member of the Lafayette Parish  
18 Tourist Commission, advocating for the cultural richness and economic vitality of the  
19 region; and

20 WHEREAS, through his music, mentorship, and unwavering belief in the power of  
21 culture to uplift and unite, "Big Sid" leaves behind a legacy that will echo for generations  
22 throughout Louisiana and beyond; and

23 WHEREAS, his memory will be forever cherished by his wife, daughters,  
24 grandchildren, siblings, extended family, fellow musicians, and the countless lives he  
25 enriched through his generosity, vision, and enduring love for his community.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
27 does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Sidney  
28 "Sid" Joseph Williams Jr. on the occasion of his passing and hereby acknowledges and  
29 commemorates his life, legacy, and immeasurable contributions to Creole and Zydeco music,  
30 cultural preservation, and public service.

1           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his  
2 wife Susanna Syner Williams.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

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SR 130 Original

DIGEST  
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Expresses condolences upon the passing of Sidney "Sid" Joseph Williams Jr.