

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 130

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was the founder and owner of Elsid's Zydeco and Blues Club in Lafayette, Louisiana, an iconic venue that became a beacon for Zydeco music, serving as a launching pad for renowned artists including the Zydeco Cha Chas led by his brother, Nathan Williams, Lil Nathan and the Zydeco Big Timers, and the legendary Buckwheat Zydeco; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE