

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 36

BY REPRESENTATIVE EGAN

COMMENDATIONS: Commends James C. Walsh on being named 2026 Hibernian of the Year in Louisiana

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend James C. Walsh on being named 2026 Hibernian of the Year in Louisiana.

3 WHEREAS, it is most fitting to recognize James C. Walsh for many achievements
4 and to commend him for being recognized by the Ancient Order of Hibernians of Louisiana
5 as the 2026 Hibernian of the Year; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Walsh was born in 1940 in New Brunswick, New Jersey, to an
7 immigrant family; his father, James Patrick Walsh, immigrated from Charlestown, County
8 Mayo, Ireland, to the United States in the 1920s; his mother Elizabeth's family arrived from
9 Hungary and Czechoslovakia in the 1890s; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Walsh's first language was Hungarian, which he learned from his
11 beloved grandmother, Erzebet "Elsie" Nagy; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Walsh worked at automotive parts factories while taking night
13 classes at Rutgers University; he enrolled at the University of Alabama, where he met his
14 lifelong friend, client, and business partner, future NFL Hall of Fame quarterback Joe
15 Namath; he also befriended future New Orleans civic leader Eddie Sapir; and

16 WHEREAS, after completing his undergraduate degree, Mr. Walsh remained in
17 Tuscaloosa, Alabama, to attend the University of Alabama School of Law; he graduated in
18 1966 and began his legal career in New York City; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Walsh initially practiced civil defense in Brooklyn, but soon after,
20 he began negotiating contracts and endorsements for Namath; he proved to be an innovator
21 in sports and entertainment law by securing endorsements and ventures ranging from

1 typewriters and razors to television appearances; he famously spearheaded Namath's deal
2 to promote BeautyMist pantyhose; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Walsh co-founded a law firm with Johnny Carson's attorney and
4 manager, Henry Bushkin, and film producer and financier, Arnold Kopelson; he grew his
5 client roster to include other prominent athletes, including NFL quarterback Doug Williams
6 and boxer Sean O'Grady; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Walsh discovered comedian Andy Kaufman in New York in the
8 1970s; he served as the comedian's first agent and manager and secured performance slots
9 at prominent clubs in New York City; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Walsh met local fashion maven, Yvonne LaFleur, in 1979 during
11 a flight from New Orleans to New York; he sparked a romance with her six months later
12 while visiting Lucky Pierre's in New Orleans, and they married in 1981; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Walsh relocated to New Orleans after marrying Yvonne, and they
14 raised seven children together; he resides in the city today; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Walsh won an Emmy for his role as an executive producer of the
16 HBO Sports documentary, *Namath*; he is a longtime member of the founding board of the
17 Joe Namath Charitable Foundation; and

18 WHEREAS, James C. Walsh's life is defined by his faith, loyalty, friendship, and
19 distinctly Irish ability to turn hard work and imagination into an inspiring story; he is most
20 deserving of the highest recognition for his incredible achievements.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
22 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend James C. Walsh on being named 2026
23 Hibernian of the Year in Louisiana and does hereby extend sincere wishes that he remain
24 prosperous in all of his endeavors.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]
