

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 76

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To designate Tuesday, April 14, 2026, as Acadiana's Red and White Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

WHEREAS, One Acadiana, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and the UL Lafayette Alumni Association are bringing Acadiana's economic development, chamber, civic, business, and higher education partners together for "Acadiana's Red and White Day" to promote the shared interests of the Acadiana Region; and

WHEREAS, Acadiana's Red and White Day is a celebration of the region's unique identity, uniting citizens, civic leaders, educators, business owners, and students to promote the interests and accomplishments of Acadiana, highlight regional priorities, foster dialogue between state lawmakers and local stakeholders, and advocate for continued investment and development in the region; and

WHEREAS, the university has, for one hundred twenty-seven years, supported and improved the educational, social, and economic well-being of Acadiana and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the university has an annual statewide economic impact of four billion four hundred million dollars, supporting more than forty-seven thousand five hundred jobs, and for every one dollar invested in UL Lafayette, the university generates seven dollars and thirty cents in statewide economic impact; and

WHEREAS, the university serves to educate our citizens and grow and strengthen our talent pipeline, with ninety percent of current students enrolled at the university hailing from Louisiana, and seventy-two percent of them remaining in state ten years after earning their bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette was redesignated for the second time as a Carnegie Research 1 (R1): Very High Spending and Doctorate Production university, with one billion seven hundred million dollars for groundbreaking research by its talented faculty since 2013, ranking it third in the nation for industry-funded research as a percentage of research portfolio with expenditures in 2024 over two hundred fifty-four million dollars; and

WHEREAS, the university welcomed in March 2026 its seventh president, alumnus Dr. Ramesh Kolluru, an "Honorary Cajun" with a bold vision for his alma mater and its students; and

WHEREAS, continued success in supporting the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and advancing the Acadiana Region and the state of Louisiana requires ongoing leadership, shared vision, and strong collaboration with partners throughout the region and the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Tuesday, April 14, 2026, as Acadiana's Red and White Day at the Louisiana State Capitol and does hereby commend the people of Acadiana for their ongoing contributions to the cultural, economic, and social fabric of Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE