

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 45

BY SENATOR LONG AND REPRESENTATIVE BROWN

COMMENDATIONS. Commends William "Bill" Brent as the inaugural inductee in the Mrs. H.D. Dear Sr. and Alice E. Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts Hall of Fame and recognizes his many years of dedicated service to Northwestern State University.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend William "Bill" Brent as the inaugural inductee in the Mrs. H. D. Dear Sr. and Alice E. Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts Hall of Fame and recognize his many years of dedicated service to Northwestern State University.

WHEREAS, it is with great pride that the Legislature of Louisiana and the citizens of Louisiana recognize Bill Brent as the inaugural inductee in the Mrs. H. D. Dear Sr. and Alice E. Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts Hall of Fame and recognizes his many years of dedicated service to Northwestern State University; and

WHEREAS, Bill's fascination with music began at an early age, playing the piano at age six, and the trombone at age ten, and was a section leader in the Bonham, Texas, High School Warrior Band; and

WHEREAS, in 1974 Bill earned a Bachelor of Music Education at the University of Texas at Austin and in 1981 a Master of Music in Conducting; and

WHEREAS, Bill's first jobs as a band director were in Austin, Texas, at Pearce Middle School and McCallum High School, where the marching band was twice named in the top five in the University Interscholastic League "State Marching Contest" and the symphonic band was named in the top ten in the Texas Music Educator's Association "Honor Band" competition; and

1 WHEREAS, after earning his master's degree, he returned to Louisiana joining the
2 staff at Nicholls State University; and

3 WHEREAS, over thirty years ago Northwestern State University (NSU) made the
4 wise decision to hire Bill Brent, and Bill's dedication and enthusiasm have been a huge asset
5 to the university because his commitment and superior teaching techniques have earned NSU
6 numerous awards and accolades; and

7 WHEREAS, Bill has served as Director of Bands, Director of CAPA and Conductor
8 of the NSU Wind Symphony, and through three presidents, numerous vice presidents and
9 alumni directors, he built one of the best marching band programs in the nation; and

10 WHEREAS, during his tenure at NSU, the band program has grown from forty-eight
11 members to more than three hundred members, and with his leadership, the School of
12 Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) has been endowed with more than \$2.5 million in
13 private scholarship funds and \$4 million in grants, and in addition, all academic programs
14 in the School of CAPA have been accredited by their national accrediting agencies, and the
15 Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System has designated the School as
16 an "Area of Excellence"; and

17 WHEREAS, among his professional organization memberships are the Louisiana
18 Music Educators Association, Music Educators National Conference, Texas Music
19 Educators Association, the Texas Bandmasters Association and Phi Beta Mu, and he was
20 elected into the prestigious and elite membership of the American Bandmasters Association;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Bill has received many distinct honors which include the National
23 Council of Kappa Kappa Psi honoring him with the A. Frank Martin Award in 1997 and in
24 2002; he received the highest honor bestowed by NSU to members of the faculty when he
25 was presented with the Northwestern "Distinguished Service Award" in 2007, and
26 recognized as an "Honorary Alumnus" of Northwestern State University in 2011 and in
27 2012; he also received the Outstanding Bandmaster Award from the International
28 Bandmasters Fraternity, and was inducted into the Louisiana Music Educators Hall of Fame
29 and the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame along with such Louisiana music legends as Bill
30 Conti and Ellis Marsalis; and

1 WHEREAS, the distinction of being named the inaugural member of the CAPA Hall
2 of Fame is one of many accomplishments in Bill's thirty plus years as a music educator and
3 mentor to thousands of Northwestern State students and colleagues, and the Band Hall in the
4 A.A. Fredericks Creative and Performing Arts Building at NSU has since been named in his
5 honor; and

6 WHEREAS, he is in constant demand among his colleagues as a clinician, guest
7 conductor, and adjudicator in Louisiana and across the nation; and

8 WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities,
9 and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon men like
10 William "Bill" Brent who share their extraordinary talents and gifts and dedicate their lives
11 to guiding and teaching others to find and share their gifts and talents with the world; and

12 WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana wishes to honor William "Bill" Brent for his
13 success and the positive impact he has made on education, music, Northwestern State
14 University, the City of Natchitoches and the state of Louisiana.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
16 honor, commend, and congratulate William "Bill" Brent as the inaugural inductee in the Mrs.
17 H. D. Dear Sr. and Alice E. Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts Hall of Fame and
18 recognizes his many years of dedicated service to Northwestern State University.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be presented to
20 William "Bill" Brent.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Tammy Crain Waldrop.

DIGEST

Long

SCR No. 45

Commends William "Bill" Brent as the inaugural inductee in the Mrs. H. D. Dear Sr. and
Alice E. Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts Hall of Fame and recognizes his many
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