

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 45

BY SENATOR LONG AND REPRESENTATIVES BROWN AND PEARSON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon men like William "Bill" Brent who share their extraordinary talents and gifts and dedicate their lives

to guiding and teaching others to find and share their gifts and talents with the world; and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby honor, commend, and congratulate 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.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES