

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 64

BY SENATOR PETERSON

COMMENDATIONS. Commends the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society for its contributions to the legal profession and community and recognize April 16, 2014, as Louis A. Martinet Day at the State Capitol.

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society for its contributions to the legal profession and community and recognize April 16, 2014, as Louis A. Martinet Day at the State Capitol.

WHEREAS, the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society is the result of the efforts of Earl J. Amedee, Israel M. Augustine, Norman C. Francis, Benjamin J. Johnson, Alvin Jones, Ernest N. Morial, Justice Revius Ortique, A. P. Tureaud, and others in seeking to combat the injustices and inequalities that existed in the 1950s regarding the legal profession; and

WHEREAS, it was during that tumultuous time that Jim Crow dominated every aspect of African-American life and African-American attorneys were barred from participating in the mainstream of the nation's legal profession; and

WHEREAS, the founding members of Louis A. Martinet Legal Society organized for professional support and to focus their skills and training to combat Jim Crow in their communities and in the courtrooms; and

WHEREAS, the society is named in honor of a pioneer in the legal profession, Louis Andre' Martinet who was the first African-American graduate at Straight University Law School, which is now named Dillard University; and

WHEREAS, he graduated law school in 1876, one year after he passed the Louisiana

1 Bar Examination; and

2 WHEREAS, in addition to being an attorney Martinet was a politician, educator,  
3 activist, journalist, medical doctor, notary, and a key figure in the civil rights activities  
4 surrounding the end of Reconstruction; and

5 WHEREAS, many of the Martinet Legal Society's objectives upon its founding  
6 remain the same today; the members are able to exchange ideas, promote legal scholarship,  
7 advance the science of jurisprudence, promote the administration of justice, and uphold the  
8 order and ethics of the courts to promote the welfare of the legal profession; and

9 WHEREAS, there are Louis A. Martinet Legal Society chapters across the state that  
10 promote the same doctrine; and

11 WHEREAS, the society is greatly involved in the community through projects such  
12 as the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project, Annual Scholarship and Awards  
13 Gala, Pro Bono Project, Reading Project, Bar Scholarship Program, and several other  
14 programs in conjunction with Martinet's affiliates: the National Bar Association, Louisiana  
15 State Bar Association, Baton Rouge Bar Association, The Louisiana Legislative Black  
16 Caucus, Black Law Students Association, Louisiana Judicial Conference, and other Martinet  
17 chapters across the state; and

18 WHEREAS, the Martinet Society has provided hundreds of students with  
19 scholarships to attend undergraduate and law school within the State of Louisiana and has  
20 served as the backbone and resource to civil rights litigation, education initiatives, and  
21 professional development of many African-American and minority attorneys.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
23 does hereby commend the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society for its contributions to the legal  
24 profession and community and recognizes April 16, 2014, as the first Louis A. Martinet Day  
25 at the State Capitol.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
27 Christopher B. Hebert, president of the Baton Rouge chapter and Rachael Johnson, president  
28 of the New Orleans chapter .

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by J. Ashley Mitchell.

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DIGEST

Peterson

SR No. 64

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