

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 64

BY SENATOR PETERSON

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 Bar Examination; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE