

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Marion Overton White upon his induction into the St. Landry Parish Democratic Party Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, Marion Overton White was born to Valery White and Rosella Sam-White in Plaisance, Louisiana, and graduated from Plaisance High School, and he and his wife Doris Morein-White have raised their children, John Valley White, Lia White-Allen, Ahmed White, Ismael White, and Corrine White in St. Landry Parish; and

WHEREAS, Mr. White attended Southern University and is a "Golden Alumni Delegate" from Southern University Law School; and

WHEREAS, Marion White has served as counsel of record for the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, known almost exclusively as the "NAACP", and was involved in numerous important civil rights cases filed in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Mr. White served as president of the Louisiana Chapter of the NAACP and was also a member of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, Louisiana advisory committee; and

WHEREAS, White was the only attorney of record in the filing of a desegregation case against the St. Landry School Board and was victorious in this important civil rights case in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Mr. White played an essential role as the attorney for the plaintiffs in several cases that produced landmark decisions dealing with race relations and the struggle to secure the right to equal opportunity for all in America, regardless of race; and

WHEREAS, while legal counsel and lead attorney for important civil rights organizations such as the J. K. Haynes Foundation and Legal Defense Fund, Inc. Education Division, Marion White also found time to represent many poor clients in numerous police brutality cases on a pro bono basis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. White has been the recipient of more than one hundred fifty awards honoring a legal career devoted to fighting for the guarantee and for participating in the struggle for equal rights in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, as a celebrated authority on the struggle for civil rights in Louisiana, Marion White has been sought for comments in such works as *Race and Democracy: The Civil Rights Struggle in Louisiana, 1915-1972* by Adam Fairclough and numerous peer reviewed journals, such as the *ABA Journal* and the *Justice Journal*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. White's accomplishments in the courts of law in a wide range of civil rights cases were recognized when he was named to the Southern University Law School Hall of Fame, honorary chair of the Southern Mutual Health Association, and his longtime service as a member of the Louisiana Council on Human Rights; and

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Democratic Parish Executive Committee annually names persons of high ethical and moral character who have promoted the principles of constitutional equality, personal liberty, economic opportunity, and government and fiscal responsibility whose impact has positively influenced the entire parish and the state; and

WHEREAS, the Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, who is then considered to be a member of the St. Landry Democratic Party Hall of Fame, is also a person who recognizes and respects the diversity of all Americans and promotes the common unity of all, leading his political party and displaying strong leadership throughout his career; and

WHEREAS, Marion Overton White has demonstrated a devotion to all of these principles of the St. Landry Democratic Party with a lifetime of efforts in the legal arena championing these principles that are so essential to the ideals of American democracy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana that Marion Overton White is hereby congratulated upon his induction into the St. Landry Parish Democratic Party Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Marion Overton White.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE