

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 36

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend Gerald Guilbeaux on receiving the National Band Association's Academy of Wind and Percussion Arts Award.

WHEREAS, at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, before over 18,000 conductors and musicians, the National Band Association presented Gerald Guilbeaux with the prestigious Academy of Wind and Percussion Arts Award (AWAPA), recognizing individuals who have made significant and outstanding contributions to advancing excellence in bands and band music; and

WHEREAS, the nine-inch silver "AWAPA" statuette, regarded as the "Oscar" of the band world, emphasizes the high esteem in which Gerald Guilbeaux is held by his colleagues for his exceptional contributions to music and community; and

WHEREAS, a proud Carencro native and graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's School of Music, Guilbeaux has maintained deep ties to his alma mater by serving on the UL Lafayette Alumni Board and contributing as a member of the College of the Arts Advisory Council, reflecting his lifelong commitment to supporting the university's mission; and

WHEREAS, Guilbeaux's enduring connection to UL Lafayette began during his student years and has grown throughout his distinguished career; in 1982, he became a founding member of the Lafayette Concert Band and has served as its conductor since 1993; now in his 32nd year as conductor, Guilbeaux has led the 90-member ensemble to extraordinary achievements, including earning the Sudler Silver Scroll in 1999, an international award recognizing excellence in adult community bands; and

WHEREAS, Guilbeaux is also the founding conductor of the Acadian Wind Symphony, a select wind ensemble that performs during the summer months, Mardi Gras, and other special events under his leadership; the Acadian Wind Symphony received the

2021 American Prize for Community Bands, an award at the prestigious national competition that honors artistic excellence and recognizes the best recorded performances by individual artists and ensembles in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Guilbeaux's advocacy for adult community bands has made him a nationally recognized figure in the band world; he is an active guest conductor, the administrator and assistant conductor of the National Community Band, a project of the John Philip Sousa Foundation, and serves as Vice President and Treasurer of the Foundation's Executive Board; he is also Trustee for Windjammers Unlimited, the circus music historical society, and has organized and conducted numerous performances for the group; and

WHEREAS, his leadership extends to serving as Past President of the National Association of Concert Bands and as Chair of the Associate Member Committee of the prestigious American Bandmasters Association, further solidifying his standing as a key figure in the advancement of bands and band music; and

WHEREAS, locally, Guilbeaux has made a significant impact as a life member of the Kiwanis Club of Lafayette, a former member of the Festival International Board of Directors, and a dedicated contributor to the UL Lafayette College of the Arts Advisory Council, highlighting his commitment to fostering artistic and educational excellence within his community; and

WHEREAS, Gerald Guilbeaux's remarkable career and unwavering commitment to music, education, and community service exemplify the highest values of artistic excellence and public service; his recognition with the AWAPA Award is a fitting tribute to his decades of impact on the world of bands and band music.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Gerald Guilbeaux for his receipt of the Academy of Wind and Percussion Arts Award recognizing his extraordinary career and contributions to music and community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Gerald Guilbeaux.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE