

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 231

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

A RESOLUTION

To commend Joe Delpit of Baton Rouge for his numerous accomplishments and contributions to the city of Baton Rouge and state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Joe Delpit has a rich political background; he was the first black metro councilman in Baton Rouge, and he also briefly served as mayor pro tempore; Joseph Delpit served with great honor and distinction as a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives from 1976 until 1992; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Delpit provided highly productive and effective leadership as speaker pro tempore from 1984 until 1988 as, at the time, the highest-ranking African American elected official in the state since Reconstruction and as the first African American to hold this distinguished office; Mr. Delpit was a founding member of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Delpit served as master of ceremonies at the 1972, 1976, and 1984 inaugurations of Governor Edwin W. Edwards; he was later appointed to the Greater Baton Rouge Port Commission; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his tenure as a public servant, Joe has vast experience as a successful businessman; he has owned two health service companies, a consulting company, and an investment company; and

WHEREAS, Joe Delpit is the son of Chicken Shack founder, Thomas Delpit, who opened the business in 1935; the restaurant, which Joe has owned since 1959 and now has multiple locations and a food truck, is considered to be the oldest continuously operating establishment in the city of Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, at the inaugural Baton Rouge Soul Food Festival in May 2018, Joe Delpit will receive the Pioneer Award for outstanding contributions to the soul food industry; the recipes used at Chicken Shack have been handed down through generations; and

WHEREAS, Joe Delpit's many notable honors include the Louisiana Education Association Award, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Award, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People National Freedom Award, McKinley High Alumni Award, Office of Economic Opportunity Sergeant Shriver Award, *News Leader* Baton Rouge Businessman of the Year Award, YMCA, Baranco-Clark Branch, Outstanding Service Award, and more; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Mr. Delpit was inducted into the African American Wall of Fame at the New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, an honor bestowed upon contemporary black leaders who contribute to the growth and well-being of the community; and

WHEREAS, former state representative and speaker pro tempore Joe Delpit of Baton Rouge merits a sincere measure of commendation for his achievements and contributions as a significant figure in the Baton Rouge community; and

WHEREAS, Joe Delpit represents all that is good about Louisiana as a man with unique gifts and a dedication to community engagement; Joseph Delpit is one of this state's finest sons, and he brings great pride and honor to his family, friends, and community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Joe Delpit of Baton Rouge for his numerous accomplishments and contributions to the city of Baton Rouge and state of Louisiana and does hereby express appreciation for his efforts to serve Louisianians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Joe Delpit.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES