

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 23

BY SENATOR BROOME

A RESOLUTION

To commend Jim Engster on being selected by the YWCA of Greater Baton Rouge to receive the 18th Annual Racial Justice Award.

WHEREAS, Jim Engster is the president of the Louisiana Radio Network, which provides news coverage to 80 affiliate stations and he also is president of Tiger Rag, a weekly publication known for 32 years as "The Bible of LSU Sports"; and

WHEREAS, he was general manager of WRKF-FM in Baton Rouge from 2003 to 2006 and, during that time, "The Jim Engster Show" debuted in March 2004 and has been a meeting place for discussions related to politics, business, sports and the arts, airing Monday through Friday at 9 a.m.; and

WHEREAS, on his radio show, which reaches approximately tens of thousands of listeners from Louisiana and surrounding states daily, Jim Engster frequently tackles difficult racial and social issues and takes the time and the care to present a balanced viewpoint and to challenge misinformation presented by his guests; and

WHEREAS, Jim Engster hosted Louisiana Live, a statewide program that was heard from 1998 to 2003 on more than 20 Louisiana Network affiliate stations and which was named three times by the Associated Press as the best public affairs program in the state; and

WHEREAS, prior to hosting Louisiana Live, he served as news director of the Louisiana Radio Network for eleven years with his tenure in this position being highlighted by national recognition for the network's coverage of Hurricane Andrew in 1992 and the gubernatorial election featuring Edwin Edwards, David Duke, and Buddy Roemer in 1991; and

WHEREAS, Jim Engster is a native of New Orleans and is a graduate in journalism from LSU who began his broadcasting career in 1979 when he aired his first newscast as a college student on WLSU from the station's studios at Tiger Stadium; and

WHEREAS, he has interviewed nine Louisiana governors and has shared the microphone with countless local and national personalities, was named Communicator of the Year for 2008 by the Public Relations Association of Louisiana, and has served as president of the Baton Rouge Press Club in 2009 and again in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Jim Engster has also appeared regularly as a political analyst for WAFB-Channel 9 in Baton Rouge since 2002; and

WHEREAS, the YWCA Greater Baton Rouge Racial Justice Award annually recognizes exceptional and creative contributions toward the elimination of racism; and

WHEREAS, Engster was nominated for the award because of his tireless on-air advocacy of racial and social justice.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Jim Engster on being selected by the YWCA of Greater Baton Rouge to receive the 18th Annual Racial Justice Award.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Jim Engster.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE