

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 38

BY SENATOR CLAITOR

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate the Baton Rouge Blues Foundation for its efforts to preserve and promote the unique blues culture of Baton Rouge and the region and to recognize the Baton Rouge Blues Festival being held on Saturday, April 9 through Sunday, April 10, 2016.

WHEREAS, on the Mighty Mississippi, located between the urbane sophistication of New Orleans jazz and the Cajun and Zydeco sounds of the French people of Acadiana, is the Blues from Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, it is a sound that draws from the experience of sharecroppers, cane cutters, plant workers and touring musicians; it is country come to town; it can be mysterious, even dark, but always full of life and energy; it is downhome and it is electric; it is the music of Lonesome, Lightnin', Lazy and Slim that captured the imagination of The Stones, The Kinks, The Moody Blues and the Black Keys; it is a spirit that lives on through the Blues families like Hogan, Thomas and Neal and still fuels the good times of many a local on a Saturday night - it is the Swamp Blues; and

WHEREAS, the Baton Rouge Blues Foundation seeks to preserve, promote, and propel this unique blues culture of Baton Rouge and the region; and

WHEREAS, this, 501(c)(3), not for profit organization, formed in 2002, is run entirely by volunteers who see the Swamp Blues as an asset to the communities of Baton Rouge and Louisiana as well as a beautiful and rich export to the nation and world; and

WHEREAS, while native musical culture and spirit is strong in Baton Rouge, it is often overlooked in comparison to its neighbors to the southeast and the west but the Baton Rouge Blues Foundation seeks to change that story; and

WHEREAS, through the tireless efforts of its board members and countless volunteers and in partnership with the many blues musicians from the Baton Rouge area, the Baton Rouge Blues Foundation is making great strides in presenting Baton Rouge as a blues town, while adding to the awareness of many music lovers, that the blues is a major part of the rich Louisiana musical heritage; and

WHEREAS, a big part of that heritage is on display at the Baton Rouge Blues Festival, held this year on Saturday, April 9 through Sunday, April 10, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Blues Fest brings to the world the best in Blues, R n B, Soul, Gospel, Rock & Roll, and more, with music that celebrates the great blues culture of Baton Rouge and our region while providing a showcase for our local legends and leaders; and

WHEREAS, through the contribution of its many partners including Mayor Kip Holden and the City of Baton Rouge/Parish of East Baton Rouge, the festival is provided at no cost; and

WHEREAS, since 2010 the Baton Rouge Blues Festival has increased its number of performing artists by 500%, from eight artists in 2010 to 45 artists in 2016, and its attendance by 300%, amazing growth for a free event and evidence that this event is not only a great cultural touchstone for the Baton Rouge area but an economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the Baton Rouge Blues Foundation provides additional programming the whole year round, such as the Baton Rouge Blues Gala, a developing historic marker program, and a public high school educational program through which the foundation is positioning Baton Rouge as the anchor of blues music in Louisiana while providing an economic and tourism engine for South Louisiana based on its cultural capital for years to come.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate the Baton Rouge Blues Foundation for its efforts to preserve and promote the unique blues culture of Baton Rouge and the region and to recognize the Baton Rouge Blues Festival being held on Saturday, April 9 through Sunday, April 10, 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Baton Rouge Blues Foundation.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE