

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 42

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend and recognize the Asosyasyon Peyizan Fondwa Global (APF) for its successful efforts at empowering the poor to create wealth through co-ops and grassroots developments in their communities.

WHEREAS, APF Global-Louisiana has recently secured an office in Opelousas, Louisiana, the burial home of its founder: a remarkable African-American Spiritan priest named Father Albert McKnight, often referred to as the Black Catholic Cooperativist or the Catholic combination of Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X; and

WHEREAS, the social vision of his ministry led Father McKnight to lead a peaceful economic revolution among low income families in rural areas by teaching community members the importance of self-help by working together through cooperatives; and

WHEREAS, upon recognizing the national significance of his cooperative leadership, President Jimmy Carter appointed Father McKnight to the first board of directors of the National Cooperative Bank; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1990s, Father McKnight moved to Haiti where he helped launch Fondwa University in 2004, teaching courses on co-ops and serving as university chaplain; and

WHEREAS, Fondwa, a small community village in the western province of Haiti is where APF translated means the Association of the Peasants of Fondwa, started in 1988 and now which is a national peasant organization; and

WHEREAS, their objective is to empower the local grassroots organizations to create wealth in their communities by creating jobs, business opportunities for everyone, and to development improvements in areas such as healthcare, water and energy, agriculture, construction, radio stations, small businesses, education, and economic tourism promotion; and

WHEREAS, the success of APF in Haiti led to the creation of APF Global in Washington, DC, and its incorporation on August 1, 2014, received accreditation from the Internal Revenue Service in April 2016; and

WHEREAS, on Haitian Flag Day, the APF is planning a memorial day celebration in honor of Father Albert McKnight on May 18, 2022, at Holy Ghost Catholic Church.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and recognize the Asosyasyon Peyizan Fondwa Global (APF) for its successful efforts at empowering the poor to create wealth through co-ops and grassroots developments in their communities, and acknowledges May 18, 2022, as Haitian Flag Day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to LeMar Clifford, Director APF Global-Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE