

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 201

BY REPRESENTATIVE PIERRE

A RESOLUTION

To commend musician Cedric Watson for his many accomplishments and promotion of Creole music, culture, and language.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend Cedric Watson, the four-time Grammy-nominated fiddler, singer, accordionist, and songwriter with seemingly unlimited potential; and

WHEREAS, born in San Felipe, Texas, in 1983, Cedric Watson grew up with rich musical surroundings including blues, old soul, country, hip hop, and Zydeco music; and

WHEREAS, though his exposure to music was vast, it did not take long for Cedric to develop a particular liking for Cajun, Creole, and Zydeco music; and

WHEREAS, Cedric Watson made his first appearance at the age of nineteen at the Zydeco Jam in Houston, Texas; and

WHEREAS, two years after that appearance, because of his growing love for Cajun and Creole music, Mr. Watson packed his belongings and moved to Lafayette, Louisiana, where he could fully immerse himself in the culture and the music; and

WHEREAS, over the next several years, Cedric performed French music in seventeen countries and on seven full-length albums with various groups, including the Pine Leaf Boys, Corey Ledet, Les Amis Creole with Ed Poullard and J.B. Adams, and with his own group, Bijou Creole; and

WHEREAS, Cedric Watson and Bijou Creole masterfully resurrect the ancient sounds of the French and Spanish contra dance and bourre' alongside the spiritual rhythms of the Congo tribes of West Africa; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Watson has performed throughout the United States as well as in other parts of the world including France, Nova Scotia, Haiti, and Spain; and

WHEREAS, Cedric has a sincere desire to increase awareness around the world of the culture and music he loves dearly; and

WHEREAS, with a seemingly bottomless repertoire of songs at his fingertips, Cedric has mastered everything from forgotten Creole melodies and obscure reels of the famous Cajun fiddler Dennis McGee to more modern Cajun and Zydeco songs, even occasionally throwing in a bluegrass fiddle tune or an old string band number; and

WHEREAS, a prolific songwriter, Cedric writes almost all of his songs on his double row Hohner accordion; and

WHEREAS, his songs channel his diverse ancestry to create his own brand of sounds, his albums are a tapestry of pulsing rhythms and Creole poetry, and his live performances are unforgettable, all at once progressive and nostalgic; and

WHEREAS, Cedric employs a creative style and an obvious joy in playing that makes him an engaging and exciting performer who moves with ease between fiddle and accordion, while his natural playfulness on stage makes him extremely fun to watch.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and recognize musician Cedric Watson for his many accomplishments and promotion of Creole music, culture, and language and does hereby extend best wishes to Cedric Watson for continued success in his musical endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Cedric Watson.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES