

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARRAS

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences upon the death of George Rodrigue, an internationally renowned artist, and recognizes his contributions to the state

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of George Rodrigue, an  
3 internationally renowned artist, and to recognize his contributions to the state of  
4 Louisiana.

5 WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the  
6 Louisiana House of Representatives have learned of the death of artist George Rodrigue on  
7 Saturday, December 14, 2013, at the age of sixty-nine; and

8 WHEREAS, George Rodrigue was born on March 13, 1944, in New Iberia, where  
9 he grew up as the only child of George and Marie Rodrigue; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Rodrigue began painting as a child and evolved into one of the most  
11 well-known and beloved artists in Louisiana history; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Rodrigue studied art at Southwestern Louisiana University, now  
13 the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena,  
14 California, and returned home to Louisiana after his studies, where he settled in Lafayette  
15 and embarked on an extraordinary career; and

16 WHEREAS, much of Mr. Rodrigue's work has roots in the Cajun world where he  
17 was born and raised, and while he earned well-deserved acclaim for his portraits and  
18 landscapes, as well as his fifteen-work series *Saga of the Acadians*, he was best known for  
19 his Blue Dog paintings, which were inspired by a childhood story of the myth of the  
20 *loup-garou*, a Cajun werewolf or ghost dog; and

1           WHEREAS, the Blue Dog is an artistic and cultural icon that is recognized the world  
2 over; as Mr. Rodrigue himself is quoted saying in *The New York Times* in 1998, "People who  
3 have seen a Blue Dog painting always remember it. They are really about life, about  
4 mankind searching for answers"; and

5           WHEREAS, in addition to his artistic accomplishments, Mr. Rodrigue was  
6 committed to giving back to his community through charitable and educational efforts;  
7 through the George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts, he raised millions of dollars for  
8 post-Katrina New Orleans; and he held annual art contests for high school students that have  
9 awarded scholarships, art supplies, and other assistance to burgeoning Louisiana artists; and

10          WHEREAS, Mr. Rodrigue's lifelong contributions to his homestate and to Southern  
11 art cannot be overstated; he was commended many times for his singular achievements,  
12 including his receipt of an award for outstanding service from the National Art Education  
13 Association for his efforts on behalf of arts education and the Ogden Southern Museum of  
14 Art's prestigious Opus Award, which is given annually to a member of the arts community  
15 whose life's work constitutes a major contribution to the cultural landscape of the South; and

16          WHEREAS, Mr. Rodrigue was not a native of New Orleans but was an adopted son  
17 of the city, where he made a significant impact on the people and culture and where his  
18 studio is a treasured landmark in the French Quarter; and

19          WHEREAS, Mr. Rodrigue's body of work is highly regarded not only in Louisiana  
20 but throughout the United States and the world; he is the subject of numerous books that  
21 have been published nationally and internationally; his original paintings and silkscreens are  
22 displayed in galleries in Carmel, California, Lafayette, and New Orleans; his work is  
23 featured in permanent collections throughout the nation, including the George Bush  
24 Presidential Library and Museum in Houston and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington,  
25 D.C.; and he had record-breaking career retrospective exhibitions at the Dixon Gallery and  
26 Gardens Museum in Memphis, Tennessee, and the New Orleans Museum of Art; and

27          WHEREAS, Mr. Rodrigue's work will remain an inspiration for its unique  
28 celebration of American life and culture, particularly with respect to the state of Louisiana  
29 and the South; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Rodrigue's survivors include his wife, Wendy, and two sons,  
2 Jacques and Andre; and

3           WHEREAS, although the death of George Rodrigue has created a tremendous void,  
4 he will always be remembered as a true American master and will continue to be a source  
5 of deep pride for all who knew and loved him, especially his family, his friends, and the  
6 people of Louisiana, who will forever cherish him, his work, and his legacy.

7           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
8 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the  
9 death of George Rodrigue, one of Louisiana's most respected and admired citizens and an  
10 internationally renowned artist, and does hereby recognize and record for posterity the  
11 special place he holds in the annals of art history in the state of Louisiana and throughout the  
12 world.

13           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
14 to the family of George Rodrigue.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Barras

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