

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29

BY SENATORS BOUIE, ABRAHAM, BERNARD, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, CORTEZ, FESI, FIELDS, HARRIS, HEWITT, JACKSON, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, MORRIS, PEACOCK, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, STINE, TALBOT, TARVER, WARD AND WOMACK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Jonathan "Jon" Batiste on his many accomplishments, most notably winning five Grammy Awards at the 64th Annual Grammy Awards Show.

WHEREAS, Jonathan Michael "Jon" Batiste is an American singer, songwriter, musician, composer, bandleader, and television personality who was born in Metairie, Louisiana, and grew up in Kenner, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, from the age of eight, Jon played percussion and drums with his family's band, the Batiste Brothers; when he was eleven, he tried piano at his mother's suggestion, taking classical piano lessons; and

WHEREAS, Jon attended St. Augustine High School and New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, along with Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews, graduating in 2004; Jon released his debut album at the age of seventeen, titled *Times in New Orleans* and went on to attend Juilliard School where he obtained a Bachelor of Music in 2008 and a Master of Music in Jazz Studies in 2011; and

WHEREAS, while at Juilliard School, Mr. Batiste formed the band Stay Human who became known for their street performances, which were called "love riots"; Stay Human still performs today, most notably on *The Late Show With Stephen Colbert* where Mr. Batiste serves as the bandleader and musical director; and

WHEREAS, although Mr. Batiste currently resides in New York City, he appeared as himself in the HBO television series *Treme* which is set in New Orleans and was the Grand Marshall of the New Orleans Endymion parade in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Batiste regularly celebrates his New Orleans roots where a strong foundation of jazz music, Rhythm & Blues, roots music, and classical music became part of him; once saying music is "more than entertainment for me, it's a spiritual experience"; and

WHEREAS, he won an Academy Award as a composer for the Disney-Pixar animated film *Soul* for Best Original Score; his work on *Soul* also earned him a Golden Globe, BAFTA, NAACP Image Award, and a Critic's Choice Award; and

WHEREAS, Jon Batiste was nominated for eleven Grammy Awards, winning a total of five, making him the most nominated and the most awarded artist of the 64th Annual Grammy Awards Show; and

WHEREAS, he received the most prestigious award, Album of the Year for *We Are*; Best Music Video for *Freedom*; Best American Roots Song for *Cry*; Best American Roots Performance for *Cry*; and Best Score Soundtrack For Visual Media for *Soul*; and

WHEREAS, Jon is featured on this year's official New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival poster though he will not be attending the festival itself since his newly commissioned *American Symphony* is scheduled for its world premier at Carnegie Hall; and

WHEREAS, at the young age of thirty-five, Mr. Batiste has already recorded and performed with many other great artists in various genres of music including Stevie Wonder, Prince, Willie Nelson, Lenny Kravitz, Ed Sheeran, Roy Hargrove, and Mavis Staples; and

WHEREAS, while still a young man with many years ahead to express his creative talents, Louisiana's native son's extensive accomplishments merit a sincere and heartfelt measure of commendation for the tremendous honor and pride he brings to his family, friends, community, the state of Louisiana, and his fans all around the world.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Jonathan "Jon" Batiste for his many accomplishments, particularly eleven Grammy Award nominations and five Grammy Award wins in the 64th year of the Grammy Awards; does take great pride in his extraordinary musical gifts and talents; and does recognize him as a son of the city of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Jonathan "Jon" Batiste.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES