

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 9

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To declare Saturday, June 30, 2018, Kenneth L. Roberts Sr. Day in Louisiana, in recognition of his immensely successful and deservedly celebrated career training quarter horses to race, primarily in his home state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Kenneth Roberts Sr. was born on February 15, 1963, in Lafayette, Louisiana, and, although he played football and basketball at Kashmere High School in Houston, Texas, those sports soon took a backseat to learning to train quarter horses from his uncle, Anthony Davis, a respected quarter horse trainer; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, at the tender age of fourteen, Kenneth Roberts began his training under his uncle and saddled his first racehorse in 1977, a year in which his horses won only six races, but he was undeterred by the long hours and hard work and continued to persevere; and

WHEREAS, the hard work and sacrifices paid off for Mr. Roberts and he began winning races in Texas and Louisiana, and developed stakes caliber horses that took him to Ruidoso Downs in New Mexico and Los Alamitos Racetrack in Cypress, California, home each year to four quarter horse stakes races with purses of over one million dollars, more than any other track in the United States; and

WHEREAS, despite long days of overseeing barn morning workouts, evaluating horses for upcoming races, and talking with owners, veterinarians, and those in the racing office at his farm in Mauriceville, Louisiana, Kenneth Roberts contributes his success to that very hard work and to having a dedicated team, which includes his brother, Roy, who works hard every day alongside him; and

WHEREAS, clearly, Kenneth Roberts has both the passion and keen eye when evaluating yearlings, and he considers it more than merely looking over the prospect from

head to toe; it involves a connection, spotting a horse that will be special and a part of the working team of trainer, owner, and jockey; and

WHEREAS, Tony Patterson, executive director of the Louisiana Quarter Horse Breeders Association (LQHBA) says about Kenneth Roberts: "Kenny has set an incredible standard for Louisiana quarter horse racing . . . he is the rare horseman that combines quantity with quality"; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Kenneth Roberts has saddled over thirteen thousand horses and has a lengthy list of champions and multiple stakes winners, including the 1994 All American Derby winner *I Hear A Symphony* and *Royal Bushwacker* who broke his maiden at Delta Downs in Vinton, Louisiana, in 1990 and won the All American consolation and two stakes wins at Los Alamitos in his first year of racing, and Mr. Roberts credits *Royal Bushwacker* as having "played a big part in my career"; and

WHEREAS, recalling other memorable horses, Mr. Roberts focuses on *Ol Time Preacher Man*, who was purchased at the 2012 LQHBA yearling sale and went on to win the one million dollar LQHBA Breeders' Futurity in November 2013 at Evangeline Downs, near Lafayette in St. Landry Parish; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Roberts has trained three World Champion horses: *I Hear A Symphony*, winner of the All American Derby; *Jess and Louisiana Blue*, winner of the American Quarter Horse Association Racing Champion Aged Stallion and East Hi Point Aged Stallion; and *B and G Fast Dash*, winner of the AQHA Racing Champion of Distance; and

WHEREAS, on January 17, 2017, Kenneth Roberts Sr. was awarded the World Champion Quarter Horse Trainer title, having won one hundred sixteen races, finished second in another ninety-six, and sixty-eight third place finishes to amass a winning total of two million eight hundred thousand dollars in earnings in that single racing year; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth L. Roberts Sr. became the first African-American trainer to win that coveted title as he continued to race primarily in his native state of Louisiana and on June 30, 2018, at Delta Downs Racetrack Casino and Hotel in Vinton, Louisiana, he will be celebrated as the World Champion Quarter Horse Trainer, the crowning achievement in a more than forty-year career of training racehorses.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby declare Saturday, June 30, 2018, Kenneth Roberts Sr. Day in Louisiana, in recognition of his successful and deservedly celebrated forty year career of training quarter horses to race, largely at home in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Kenneth L. Roberts Sr. at Kenneth Roberts Racing Stables in Vinton, Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE