

At our Acadian Museum fundraiser on November 15, we will serve a full traditional Cajun meal. Authentic Cajun dishes suggest a home-cooked feel, as the resourcefulness of the original Cajuns lives on in their ancestors today. Therefore, everything that will be served will be cooked by local Cajun cooks. The jambalaya will be prepared courtesy of Louisiane-Acadie and cooked by Attorney Randal Menard with help from Ray Trahan. Side dishes will be prepared of cornbread macaque choux by Ronald Gaspard, green beans by Bonnie Broussard and coleslaw by Anna Langlinais. Desserts will include bread pudding by Nelies Dugas and cakes/pastries by Guidry's Cake Shop. All of the supplies will be provided by Whole Foods Grocery.

Please see below for a draft of the event program.

Program

November 15, 2024

Master of Ceremonies	Warren A. Perrin Chairman of the Acadian Museum
Presentation of Colors	Honor Guard, American Legion Derouen-Moss Post 279, Erath, LA
National Anthem	Nat'ial d'Augereau
Invocation	Fr. Clinton Sensat Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
Introduction of Head Table	
Work of the Museum:	
Carol Aucoin Retired educator La Belle Riviere Bed and Breakfast	The Heart of Atchafalaya Pierre Part Belle River Museum
Marion Crackover, PhD. Senior Instructor LSU Dept. of French Studies	Acadian Museum: Archives of Cajun History for the Past, Present and Future

Inductees of U.L. National Collegiate Weightlifting Champions into the Hall of Fame:

Randy Peloquin (1968, 1970)*	James Craig (1970)
John Arceneaux (1967, 1968)	E. Gerald "T-Boy" Hebert (1968)
Wayne Vizzini (1969, 1970)	Joe Murry (1967, 1968)
Jay Trahan (1968)	Paul Muffoletto (1968)
Bill LeBlanc (1968, 1970)	Terry Perrin - posthumously (1963)
Warren Perrin (1966, 1967, 19680)	* <i>Championship years</i>

Note: To view the resumé's of inductees, please visit:

<https://www.olympicpowerweightlifting.com/etc/hall-of-fame/>

Special Recognition Awards:

J. Weldon Granger - Lifetime Philanthropic
Former La. State Rep. Mike Thompson - Lifetime Citizenship
Walter Imahara - Lifetime Achievement

Induction of Living Legend Honorees:

Remarks by Lt. Gov. William "Billy" Nungusser
Remarks by Armand "Mondo" Duplantis

Thanks to Sponsors:

Retirement of Colors

Resumés of Honorees:

Lt. Governor **Willaim “Billy” Nungesser** is known for his passion for Louisiana and its people. This is most evident through his strong advocacy in tourism, coastal restoration, and disaster recovery efforts. He plays a pivotal role in promoting Louisiana as a travel destination to visitors around the world, increasing the number of visitors and revenue generated. Prior to his service as Lieutenant Governor, Nungesser was Plaquemines Parish President where he was instrumental in the recovery and rebuilding efforts following Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil spill.

Armand “Mondo” Duplantis, attended Lafayette High School and LSU, won Olympic gold, set an Olympic record then broke his own world record at 20 feet 6 inches on his third attempt in the Paris Olympics, and broke the world record again, three weeks later in Poland. He also won a gold medal in the Tokyo Olympics. Our hometown hero “Mondo” is a descendant of Francois and Catherine Richard Broussard and from Daniel LeBlanc. Mondo also descends from Miguel Brunet and Jean Naquin. Françoise Brunet was the wife of Jean Baptiste Duplantis, who was the first Duplantis to be born in Louisiana in 1792. Clara Naquin was Mondo’s great- great-grandmother.

The former La. State Rep. **Mike Thompson**, a native of Lafayette, is being honored with a Lifetime Citizenship Award. Mike lifted for the National Championship Weightlifting Team at USL—now UL—in 1960 and 1961. In 1965, he graduated from Tulane Law School and worked for a firm for a year before becoming an Assistant District Attorney and starting his own law practice. In 1969, he was in Washington DC working as the chief legislative assistant for a congressman. In 1972, he was elected Louisiana state representative for Lafayette and served until 1988. Mike retired from the practice of law in 1995 to become a full-time homebuilder. He served the homebuilders as their local and state president. Mike was ordained a Catholic Deacon in 2013.

Arguably the most decorated athlete in the history of the University of Louisiana, **Walter Imahara** was the first Asian to attend the university in the mid-1950s and graduated with a degree in horticulture in 1960. At his university graduation President Fletcher handed him his diploma and announced to the crowd he was being dubbed the Asian-Cajun. Walter has proudly born that nickname during his life. In the fall of 1955, Imahara met Mike Stansbury, a weightlifting enthusiast, who said Imahara had a similar build to world weightlifting champion Tommy Kono, another Japanese-American, who like Walter, had survived a relocation camp during World War II. In 1957, Imahara won first place and was All-American in leading SLI to the NCAA team title in weightlifting. This was the first time an athletic team from the university had ever won a national title. Imahara earned NCAA titles (1957, '59, '60), a Junior National crown (1960), Senior National titles (1962, '63, '65, '66, '67 and '68), the 1967 Pan Am Games gold medal, Southern AAU (1956, '57, '58, '60, '64, '65, '66, '68), the Louisiana State crown (1956, '58, '59, '64, '65, '66), the Southern USA (1960 and '64) and was the National Masters champion (1980-2005). In Masters action, he held 68 national records, 35 Pan American marks and 42 World Masters Games records. In 2023, the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame inducted Walter, the first weightlifter to be so honored.

Attorney **J. Weldon Granger** is honored for his lifetime work on philanthropic endeavors. A principal museum supporter and member of the UL National Championship Weightlifting Team in 1966-68, for the past 40 years he has allowed the Acadian Museum to occupy his building without paying any rent. Weldon, from Erath, La., was one of 11 children with loving parents who struggled to provide for their children. He graduated from UL in 1969 and went on to Texas where he graduated from law school and began his career representing employees of railway transportation companies. His law firm JonesGranger is the largest in the nation with this specialty. Weldon and his late wife Fran spent their lives supporting causes that helped those less fortunate which included:

- Tuition assistance for students at five different Catholic Schools in Houston
- Support in founding Bridges to Life, a prison ministry servicing the state of Texas
- Dress for Success, an organization which provides clothes and coaching for those seeking employment.
- Guide Dogs of America. an organization which raises, trains, and gifts seeing eye dogs and service dogs to those in need.
- Menninger Clinic, a mental health system.