



Historical Society presents Lifetime Achievement Award to Vernon Parish native Robert Brevelle

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Robert Brevelle is the 2026 recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Baton Rouge Genealogical and Historical Society. In presenting the award, last year's recipient and board member, Emily Dowden-Wilcox stated, "It is with great pleasure we bestow this honor onto Robert in recognition of his lifelong contributions to Louisiana history, genealogy, and culture. Robert has spent decades researching, promoting, and teaching our unique history. Many refer to him as "Mr. Louisiana" not only for his knowledge of Louisiana history, but also for his passion in sharing it as a speaker and author."

"Few things in life have captivated me as profoundly as our state's history, and at its heart are the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of its people," said Robert. "This little

place on the map we call home tells the epic stories of our resilient ancestors who experienced the tragedy and salvation of religion, the rise and fall of the old empires, and the forging of our state and country. A country which continues to be an unprecedented, brilliant beacon of hope and freedom for the entire world. I am honored and humbled to receive this recognition from so many people I deeply admire. May God bless and keep you in the great state of Louisiana.”

Robert continues to make his own mark on Louisiana history. He is a recipient of the Evangeline Lifetime Achievement Award, the NRA's Endowment and Ring of Freedom award, and a fellow of the Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society. Last year, he was inducted into the Order of Cavalier Sieur de La Salle, the Louisiana society's highest honor. He serves on the Tribal Council of the Adai Caddo Indian Nation and on the boards of multiple organizations across the state. For the past decade, he has been named to “Top 10” investor lists in the U.S. and Europe, and showcased in publications of The Top 100 Innovators and Entrepreneurs Magazine. The Dallas Business Journal featured Robert on its cover for transforming the oldest startup incubator in the South into a world class venture capital firm achieving a top 10 national ranking. He led the firm to become the number 1 ranked Business-to-Business accelerator in the world and developed the Department of Homeland Security's accelerator program for first responder technology. His list of accolades includes awards for innovation and engineering from NASA and the Department of Defense.

Robert is a graduate of Leesville High School. He attended the Illinois Institute of Technology on full scholarship graduating summa cum laude in a simultaneous engineering program with a bachelors and master's degree. While working full-time in various Fortune 500 companies, Robert graduated with additional degrees and professional certifications from the University of Texas at Dallas, Southeastern, Southern Methodist University, and Cornell all while on full scholarship.

Robert is a life member of the VFW in Leesville, Leonidas Chapter of the AUSA at Fort Polk, Leesville High School Century Club, National Guard Association in New Orleans, the National Rifle Association, Baton Rouge Genealogical and Historical Society, Sons of the American Revolution in Natchitoches, Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society, and Mensa.

“My love of history and genealogy was born from the teachings of my father, who was a part-time librarian at Fort Polk and amateur archaeologist,” said Robert. “We spent countless weekends at museums and battlefields. We would hike and canoe to historic sites. Impassioned history teachers and the Vernon Parish Library further nourished my interests and studies. But what I enjoyed more than anything was listening to the stories of my aunts, uncles, and the weathered tribal elders as they regaled me with a time and way of life whose remnants were vanishing right before my eyes. Nothing has sparked my imagination or my passion to defend it more.”

You can still find Robert fighting for Louisiana. He regularly works with the government and historical societies to preserve local French, Spanish, Creole, and Indigenous history. Earlier this year, he made headlines for a decisive victory in a 5 year legal battle to stop an illicit Home Owner’s Association (HOA) from destroying Indigenous sites and stealing land from disabled veterans and Native Americans.

Robert can trace his ancestry to the founding families of Louisiana. He is a lineal descendant of 1720s French explorer Jean Baptiste Brevel and his Native American wife, Anne des Cadeaux. Isle Brevelle, the birthplace of Creole Culture, is named for their son, Jean Baptiste Brevel II.

Founded in 1981, the Baton Rouge Genealogical and Historical Society was established to research, preserve and share genealogical and historical information of the people and communities of the greater Baton Rouge area. The society is a registered Louisiana non-profit and hosts seminars, classes, and events throughout the year for members and guests.

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