***WILLIAM de MARIGNY HYLAND***

Biographical Sketch

**William de Marigny “Bill” Hyland was born in New Orleans in 1958, the son of Arthur William Hyland Jr. and Gayle Ann d’Arrieux.** His father was the son of cotton broker Arthur William Hyland Sr. who began trading cotton futures on the floor of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange in 1919 and transacted the sale of the last futures in New Orleans in 1963, officially closing the Cotton Exchange in New Orleans. His mother descended from many of the early French colonists who settled in Louisiana as early as 1702, more than a decade before the founding of New Orleans in 1718. Gayle Hyland also descended from many of the Spanish colonial families who settled in Louisiana between 1770 and 1790 and contributed immeasurably to stabilizing the colony and solidifying the Creole cultural legacy which is proudly celebrated in our state.

Bill was reared by his mother and maternal grandparents and came at a very early age to recognize and appreciate the distinct cultural heritage legacies of New Orleans. His maternal grandfather was tri-lingual in French, Spanish and English and his maternal grandmother was bi-lingual in French and English. Consequently, Bill became accustomed to greeting and listening to conversations between his grandparents and their relatives and friends in French, Spanish and English. His grandparents were wonderful raconteurs relating stories from their childhood, family traditions and exposing the young child to the traditional foodways of the New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish. Through his maternal grandfather, Bill first met his Isleño relatives in St. Bernard Parish in the 1960s.

Marie Cruzat de Verges, Inez Tremoulet Pascal, Rosa Ducros Tennant and other relatives helped to cultivate Bill’s interest in cultural heritage and preservation. By the middle 1970s, Bill was conducting original research in the colonial documents of the New Orleans *Conseil Superieur* and *Cabildo*. The remarkable Martha Gilmore Robinson also helped to form and refine his passion for preservation. In 1977, Frank Fernandez, the first Parish Historian of St. Bernard Parish, approached Bill to work with him as his assistant. Frank was a highly accomplished, revered career educator in St. Bernard Parish who educated several generations of Isleños and as parish historian founded Los Isleños Heritage and Cultural Society and conceived the concept of the present Los Isleños Museum Complex in St. Bernard Parish. Bill was privileged to have been mentored by Frank Fernandez who was a titan in St. Bernard.

Bill Hyland has served as assistant parish historian, St. Bernard Parish, 1977 – 1985; parish historian, 1985 to present; site manager/ director, Los Isleños Museum Complex, 1997 to present; assistant to the Parish President, 2002 – 2008; and as assistant to the Chief Administrative Office, St. Bernard Parish, 1988 to 1992. Bill’s community involvement includes serving as program chairman of the Louisiana Historical Society, 1977 – 1982; representative of the Louisiana Historical Society to the New Orleans Tourist Commission, 1976 – 1977; member, board of directors of the Friends of Archives of Louisiana, 1977 – 1979; member, board of directors of Save Our Cemeteries, 1977 – 1987; member, Cultural Heritage Committee, Visit of Pope John Paul II, Archdiocese of New Orleans, 1985 – 1987, member, board of directors, Bastille Day Celebration, 1980 – 1986; member, Board of Directors, Friends of the Cabildo, 1990 – 1994; President, St. Bernard Historical Society, 1982 – 1984; 1991 – 1995, member, board of directors, 1979 to present; chairman, 175th Anniversary Steering Committee, Battle of New Orleans and chairman, Battle of New Orleans Celebration, 1989 – 1991; member, board of directors, Los Isleños Heritage and Cultural Society, 1994 – present, president, 2001 – 2005, secretary, 2011 – present; member, Battle of New Orleans Bicentennial Commission appointed by the Louisiana State Legislature, 2009 – 2017, coordinator for St. Bernard Parish, designated by the former Consulate General of Spain in New Orleans, of the *Buque Escuela* *Juan Sebastian de Elcano*, 1977, 1983, 1986, 1994 and 2004. As president of The St. Bernard Historical Society, Bill organized litigation against Domino Sugar to prevent the demolition of the historic Cavaroc House in 1983 and against Parish President Lynn B. Dean and St. Bernard Parish Government to prevent the destruction of the Denis de La Ronde Ruins between 1992 and 1994.

Projects undertaken for St. Bernard Parish Government include the stabilization of Fort Proctor at Shell Beach, 1977 – 1985 in concert with Frank Fernandez; coordination of the donation of the Manuel Molero home to Los Isleños Society and Parish Government in 1980; coordination of the development of the master plan for development of Los Isleños Museum Complex by Robert J. Cangelosi Jr., Koch and Wilson Architects; Historic Structures Survey of St. Bernard Parish for the State Historic Preservation Office, with Eugene D. Cizek, Ph.D., FAIA, Tulane School of Architecture, 1982 – 1984; restoration/rebuilding of Los Isleños Museum Complex following Hurricane Katrina with Dot Benge and the Isleño Society, $3,100,000 in grants from FEMA and $600,000 in donated funds raised by Los Isleños Society; coordinator for St. Bernard Parish Government following Hurricane Katrina of first responder/public housing/food services aboard the Scotia Prince, an overnight ferry boat with dining facilities, 1,100 berths and public meeting areas, October 2005 – March 2006; coordinator of interpretive programs which present the history and cultural legacies of St. Bernard Parish to students attending public, parochial and private schools in St. Bernard Parish; led with the Honorable Charles H. Ponstein, President of St. Bernard Parish, a delegation of sixty elected officials and Isleño descendants to consummate sister city agreements with the cities of Aguimes and Ingenio in Gran Canaria, 2002.

Bill has authored monographs about the history of St. Bernard Parish in addition to numerous newspaper articles. He is regularly interviewed by local, regional, national and international journalists about the Isleños of St. Bernard. Now in his sixty-fifth year, Bill has been honored to serve the people of St. Bernard Parish and this region on a multitude of fronts. Whether battling corporations, adverse local political trends, natural disasters or the insensitivity or lack of knowledge of many about our diverse cultural heritage, when the dust has settled Bill has been a constant presence in this region as have ten generations of his Louisiana ancestors before him!