

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 186

BY REPRESENTATIVES HARRISON AND ST. GERMAIN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Mr. Jesse T. Dugas, "Mr. Jesse", of Paincourtville on his fifty years of service to his community, the parishes around his home, and his state and for his efforts to preserve a way of life in South Louisiana through Cajun cooking and self-sacrifice for the good of the community.

WHEREAS, Jesse T. Dugas was born in Paincourtville, Louisiana, on March 14, 1928, the son of Joseph Clete Dugas and Nellie Florena Daigle Dugas, where he grew up in a household of twelve children surrounded by ten brothers – Harold "Pete", Lloyd, Roland "Butch", Clay, Alvin "Jack", Percy "Mickey", Patrick, Lynn, Wilton "Tony", and Raymond, and his sister Gladys; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jesse, along with his brothers, grew up in the sugarcane fields of Assumption, Ascension, and Iberville parishes where he became a lifelong sugarcane farmer; and

WHEREAS, on February 3, 1951, Mr. Jesse married the love of his life, Margarite Hebert Dugas, and although they never had children of their own, they helped to raise many of their nieces and nephews as the Dugas family grew and worked in the cane fields; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1960s, Mr. Jesse joined the Paincourtville Volunteer Fire Department where it quickly became obvious that he had a zest and a gift for cooking, preparing box dinners to sell to help defray the expenses of the volunteer fire department; and

WHEREAS, the box dinners soon gave way to cooking for fundraisers hosted by various nonprofit organizations in the three parish area; and

WHEREAS, his cooking grew to the point where Mr. Jesse needed help and formed a group of cooks called the "Cajun Chefs", including Chris Clement, Prosper Toups, Sidney

Cavalier, Jeffery Simoneaux, Dolese Simoneaux, David Boudreaux, Jay Dugas, Kerry Dugas, Lynn Dugas, Frank Newchurch, Phillip "Scrap" Newchurch, Bill Newchurch, Russell Giroir, Earl Matherne, Kye Rodrigue, Arthur Landry, Jimmy Gravois, Harold Harris, Delores Naquin, men and women who happily and willingly gave of their time, their talents, and their efforts to prepare Cajun dining delights to assist in charity fundraising throughout South Louisiana and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the Cajun Chefs have prepared food for golf tournaments organized to raise funds for the Children's Miracle Network, the Our Lady of the Lake Hospital, various American Legion organizations, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Hurricane Katrina victims, and, in July of 1996, the group was even invited to Washington, D.C., to cook for Congressman Billy Tauzin's biannual "Cajun Family Day" in our nation's capital; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jesse and the Cajun Chefs also cooked for six Louisiana governors: John McKeithen, Edwin Edwards, Dave Treen, Buddy Roemer, Mike Foster, and Kathleen Blanco; and

WHEREAS, while remaining humble and unassuming about his efforts on behalf of his community, Mr. Jesse has been recognized by many organizations for his charitable efforts, including being named Outstanding Citizen of Assumption Parish in 1995 and being inducted into the Tri-Parish (Terrebonne, Lafourche, and Assumption) Hall of Fame in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jesse will always be remembered as a special person, a loving and giving person who shared his love of life, family, and community through volunteering to cook for fairs, charities, schools, and government functions and Mr. Jesse will also be remembered holding a Rotel highball can as he cooked for the family and community that he loved so much.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Mr. Jesse T. Dugas, "Mr. Jesse", of Paincourtville on his fifty years of service to his community, the parishes around his home, and his state and for his efforts to preserve a way of life in South Louisiana through Cajun cooking and self-sacrifice for the good of the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Mr.
Jesse Dugas.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE