

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 3

BY REPRESENTATIVES SCHEXNAYDER AND PRICE

A RESOLUTION

To recognize St. James Parish as the Perique Tobacco Capital of the World.

WHEREAS, St. James Parish is one of Louisiana's nineteen original parishes created on March 31, 1807, by an act of the territorial legislature; and

WHEREAS, St. James Parish is part of the Mississippi River Acadian Coast, which was settled by Acadians in 1776; and

WHEREAS, St. James Parish is often called the Gem of the Mississippi River, and its people pride themselves on their unique culture and heritage; and

WHEREAS, St. James Parish is the only cultivation site in the world for Perique tobacco, a rare leaf type on which a special pressure-fermentation process is used; it was introduced in 1824 by Acadian exile and farmer Pierre Chenet, nicknamed "Perique"; and

WHEREAS, Coralie Decareau, the granddaughter of "Perique" Chenet, and Celestin Poche wed in 1829 and planted the generational seeds that grew into a rich family tradition of cultivating and processing Perique tobacco to this day; and

WHEREAS, often considered the truffle of pipe tobaccos, Perique tobacco is used as an ingredient in nearly a hundred different brand-name pipe tobaccos around the world; it is coveted for its strong, powerful, sweet, and fruity aroma, and St. James Parish is the world's sole source of Perique tobacco; and

WHEREAS, the wonderful properties of Perique tobacco allow for a variety of uses, including in cigarettes, cigars, and a French liquor; and

WHEREAS, while most Louisiana Perique tobacco is cultivated by the Poche, Martin, LeBlanc, Roussel, and Gravois farming families in or near Grand Pointe, Louisiana, fewer than fifty acres of this crop remain in cultivation; this special tobacco's unique roots in this robust and fertile ground make St. James Parish worthy of recognition as the Perique Tobacco Capital of the World.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize St. James Parish as the Perique Tobacco Capital of the World and does hereby accord the farmers of this exclusive crop and its related industries in St. James Parish the honor and esteem they are due.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to St. James Parish President Timmy Roussel and the St. James Parish Council.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES