

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 77

BY REPRESENTATIVE JAMES

A RESOLUTION

To commend Seabell "Mama" White Thomas on a long career of community and public service and upon the release of her second cookbook, "Mama's Silver Moon Cookbook".

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend Seabell "Mama" Thomas, a beloved Louisianian who has touched countless lives with her kindness, talents, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mama was born in Summit, Mississippi, to Aaron, a World War I veteran, and Mable White and grew up in a very large family; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from high school, Mama worked at the Old Lincoln Beach, the East Baton Rouge Parish coroner's office, and eventually started her own dry cleaning business with her husband, Arthur Thomas; and

WHEREAS, Mama also worked at the South Baton Rouge Community Center, where she helped minorities prepare for job interviews, for entry into the professional workforce, and for training and business colleges; and

WHEREAS, after several years serving as a community organizer, Mama was promoted to a supervisor position; and

WHEREAS, during election season, Mama and her friends would carry carloads of people to the courthouse to register them to vote and help them complete the forms, and on election day she, along with her friends, would transport people to the polls all day long so that they could exercise their right to vote; and

WHEREAS, Mama was eventually selected as the Director of the South Baton Rouge Community Center, where she instituted swimming lessons, dance and aerobics classes, and many other interactive and educational programs; and

WHEREAS, Mama also served as the director of the veteran's program for the city of Baton Rouge, where she received many awards and accolades for raising the program to national recognition; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, Mama opened the Silver Moon Café near Louisiana State University, a daily lunch cafeteria in which she served smothered chicken, red beans, black eyed peas, mashed potatoes, candied yams, and baked ham, among other dishes; and

WHEREAS, the café became an LSU tradition, and on Wednesday nights, Mama had stand-up comedy, pool games, local bands, and a blues pianist at the café; and

WHEREAS, Mama is a highly admired and respected community activist and volunteer, and she merits a special measure of commendation upon the release of her second cookbook, "Mama's Silver Moon Cookbook".

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Seabell "Mama" White Thomas upon the release of her second cookbook, "Mama's Silver Moon Cookbook", does hereby recognize and record for posterity her singular contributions as a highly skilled community organizer, civic activist, and chef, does hereby express enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that she brings to her family, friends, community, and the entire state of Louisiana, and does hereby extend to this wonderful woman every good wish for health and happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Seabell "Mama" White Thomas.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES