SLS 19RS-3218 ORIGINAL

2019 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 140

BY SENATORS MORRELL, APPEL, BISHOP, CARTER, HEWITT AND PETERSON AND REPRESENTATIVES ABRAMSON, BAGNERIS, BOUIE, DUPLESSIS, GAROFALO, JIMMY HARRIS, HILFERTY AND LEGER

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences on the death of Leah Chase, the Queen of Creole Cuisine.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Leah
3	Chase, the "Queen of Creole Cuisine".
4	WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens of Louisiana
5	learned of the death of beloved New Orleans chef, Leah Chase, while surrounded by her
6	family, on June 1, 2019, at the age of ninety-six; and
7	WHEREAS, Leah L. Chase, born on January 6, 1923, in Madisonville, Louisiana,
8	moved to New Orleans to finish high school and became the world renown matriarch of
9	Creole cuisine; and
10	WHEREAS, the Chase family stated that their matriarch, Leah Chase's, "Daily joy
11	was not simply cooking, but preparing meals to bring people together."; and
12	WHEREAS, Leah Chase saw her role and cooking in life, as a vehicle for social
13	change during a difficult time in our country's history, she is known for practicing what she
14	preached; and
15	WHEREAS, Leah Chase became the executive chef and co-owner of the historic and
16	legendary Dooky Chase's Restaurant with her husband, local jazz trumpeter Edgar "Dooky"
17	Chase Jr., in 1946; and
18	WHEREAS, the Dooky Chase Restaurant, an elegant sit-down Creole restaurant and

1	African-American art gallery, quickly became known as a safe haven for civil right leaders,
2	activist, politicians, and African-American musicians and entertainers, some of whom could
3	not eat in New Orleans restaurants during the Jim Crow era; and
4	WHEREAS, Dooky Chase, located in segregated New Orleans, was also a gathering
5	place where whites and blacks ate together all the time while mapping strategy during the
6	civil rights movement; and
7	WHEREAS, Leah Chase's meals that reflected the city's Creole heritage, Spanish,
8	French, and African culinary influences, fed many of New Orleans citizens; the famous, such
9	as Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush, Martin Luther King Jr., Jesse Jackson,
10	Thurgood Marshall, Quincy Jones, Duke Ellington, Ray Charles, Nat King Cole, Lena
11	Horne, Count Basie, James Baldwin, Sarah Vaughan, and those on the front lines of the
12	struggle for human dignity such as the Freedom Riders and the Amistad Research Center;
13	and
14	WHEREAS, Leah Chase, a strong, selfless matriarch, and extraordinary woman of
15	faith was often heard saying how much she treasured all of her customers and was honored
16	to have the privilege to meet and serve them; and
17	WHEREAS, Leah Chase's talent and contributions received scores of accolades
18	including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the James Beard Foundation, the Times-
19	Picayune Loving Cup, the Louisiana Restaurant Association named her its Restaurateur of
20	the Year in 2009; honorary degrees from Tulane, Loyola, Dillard, and Johnson & Wales
21	universities; Our Lady of Holy Cross College; Madonna College, and Xavier University,
22	which gave her their highest honor, the Francis Anthony Drexel Medal; the Southern Food
23	and Beverage Museum named a gallery for her and she received awards from the National
24	Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and a host of other awards; and
25	WHEREAS, in addition to helping to mend a divided country one meal at a time,
26	Leah Chase continued to give by sharing her cooking secrets in the following cookbooks:
27	The Dooky Chase Cookbook, And Still I Cook and Down Home Healthy: Family Recipes of
28	Black American Chefs while often teaching at Chef John Folse's classes at Nicholls State
29	University; and

WHEREAS, Leah Chase is survived by a son, Edgar Chase III, two daughters: Leah

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Chase Kamata and Stella Chase Reese, as well as siblings, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who have stated they will continue her legacy of "work, pray, and do for others"; and

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WHEREAS, Leah Chase's famous "gumbo z'herbes", fried chicken, and other dishes created a powerful avenue of unity for many who consider her a legend, an icon, an inspiration, and a trailblazer, who lived her remarkable life well, which will be forever treasured and celebrated by her family and countless friends.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Leah Chase, the "Queen of Creole Cuisine" and extend enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that her family will continue by living her legacy that she exemplified throughout her life of service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to attorney Christian J. Rhodes.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Ann S. Brown.

DIGEST 2019 Regular Session

Morrell

Expresses condolences upon the death of Leah Chase, the Queen of Creole Cuisine.