

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY SENATOR LAFLEUR

SENATE. Designates July 14 as the annual commemorative day honoring Louisiana's diverse French-American Creole families.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To designate July 14 as the annual commemorative day honoring Louisiana's diverse
3 French-American Creole families.

4 WHEREAS, the Associates of the Louisiana French Creole Cultural Educational
5 Coalition of the tri-parish region including Avoyelles, St. Landry, and Evangeline seek to
6 have Louisiana's unique, historic, and mutually-shared international, interracial French
7 Creole culture, and all of its historic family adherents, in all of our ethnic, and racial varieties
8 preserved and honored; and

9 WHEREAS, all Louisiana French "native-born" or "Creole" families, from the
10 founding, and especially after the founding, of the historic cities of Mobile, Alabama and
11 Natchitoches, New Orleans and Washington/Opelousas, Louisiana, along with all other
12 Colonial period French /European, African, and Spanish settlements in Louisiana, in all of
13 their racial and ethnic varieties, do joyfully and intelligently comprehend and embrace their
14 uniquely shared, historic, international, interracial culture, language, and cuisine; and

15 WHEREAS, they have loyally resisted compromising their uniquely shared
16 Louisiana Francophone Creole cultural identity for any commercial, social, or economic
17 expediency; and

18 WHEREAS, their five hundred year old culture and traditions antedates even the

1 entry of Louisiana into the United States of America; and

2 WHEREAS, the Creole culture remains the historically undeniable foundation of
3 Louisiana's earliest culinary, linguistic, and social traditions presented to the first
4 Francophone colonists of New Orleans under the auspices of then founder, and governor,
5 Jean-Batiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville; and

6 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Creole cuisine was made possible through the culinary
7 wisdom of the Louisiana Indians, the French settlers, African people and slaves, the early
8 Germanic people, and later Spanish colonial settlers; and

9 WHEREAS, they are thus forever united to the French maritime colonies where both
10 the earliest French "Creole" language, cuisine, and culture was born in the French empire;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the shared culture and language was successfully transmitted to every
13 diverse ethnicity thenceforth welcomed and assimilated into the North American territory
14 then known as, "la louisiane"; and

15 WHEREAS, this age-old culture and language were reinforced with the historic
16 arrival of the Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri French/Canadians and
17 European soldiers, and their Creole, or native-born families, from numerous forts formerly
18 held by the French throughout North America, and duly surrendered to the British according
19 to the terms of the Treaty of Paris of 1763, which ended the "Seven Years War"; and

20 WHEREAS, these French families settled in the historic Opelousas District, and were
21 joined by their African slaves, Creole families of Color, diverse Spanish Creoles,
22 Franco-Teutonic and Irish, and later "Foreign French" families; and

23 WHEREAS, these Creoles in all of their racial diversity would expand, and
24 disseminate among a variety of other Francophone ethnicities their mutually shared, and
25 created language, culinary arts, architecture, social and recreational traditions and thus
26 preserve through oral and written transmission, their shared historic culture through its
27 medium of communication, more recently known as "Louisiana French", which has survived
28 to this twenty-first century; and

29 WHEREAS, the beautiful words of the ancient Louisiana French will forever
30 preserve and speak to the memory, culture, tongues, and races of their diverse ancestry, for

1 all their Creole families; and

2 WHEREAS, their historically later arriving cousins, the Acadians, whose offspring,
3 by fact of birth in Louisiana were also "native-born" or qualified "Creoles" did assimilate
4 and adapt both the historic Louisiana French Creole language, and culture; and

5 WHEREAS, the historic Louisiana Francophone parishes of Avoyelles, Evangeline
6 and St. Landry were from their earliest times populated by Louisiana French Creoles, of all
7 varieties, including Americans, such that Evangeline and St. Landry parishes recognize a
8 dual cultural status of "Creole & Cajun" while Avoyelles, Pointe Coupee, and Natchitoches
9 parishes hold to their historic and predominant cultural taxonomy of "Creole".

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana that
11 the 14th day of July is hereby designated as the annual commemorative day honoring
12 Louisiana's diverse French-American Creole families.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
14 Associates of the Louisiana French Creole Cultural Education Coalition.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

DIGEST

LaFleur

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