

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY SENATOR LAFLEUR

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, their five hundred year-old cultures and traditions antedates even the entry of Louisiana into the United States of America; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the beautiful words of the ancient Louisiana French will forever preserve and speak to the memory, culture, tongues, and races of their diverse ancestry for all their Creole families; and

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

WHEREAS, the historic Louisiana Francophone parishes of Avoyelles, Evangeline

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

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE