

2025 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 152

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

LEGIS POWERS/FUNCTIONS. Designates the village of Cankton in St. Landry Parish as the Accordion Capital of Louisiana.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To recognize and commend the village of Cankton, Louisiana, for its rich cultural heritage
3 and outstanding contributions to Cajun music, and to designate the village of
4 Cankton as the "Accordion Capital of Louisiana".

5 WHEREAS, the village of Cankton, located in St. Landry Parish, is a vibrant
6 community with deep roots in Louisiana's treasured Cajun musical tradition; and

7 WHEREAS, Cankton has produced and nurtured numerous exceptional accordionists
8 who have carried the spirit of Cajun music across the globe and passed it down through
9 generations; and

10 WHEREAS, among the most distinguished accordionists with ties to Cankton is
11 Sheryl Cormier, known nationally and internationally as the "Queen of Cajun Music"; and

12 WHEREAS, Sheryl Cormier began playing the accordion at the age of seven and
13 became the first professional female Cajun accordionist, blazing a trail for women in Cajun
14 music and earning such honors as Female Vocalist of the Year in 1988 by *The Times of*
15 *Acadiana* and Best Contemporary Artist, Best Song and Best Upcoming Band by the Cajun
16 French Music Association, a Grammy nomination in 1993, membership in the Cajun Music
17 Hall of Fame in 1997, and a Living Legend Award in 2002 by the Acadian Museum; and

18 WHEREAS, Cormier's band "The Cajun Sound", which includes her husband and

1 son, has performed extensively in the United States and Europe and has released over 45
2 recordings; and

3 WHEREAS, Belton Richard, another artist with ties to the village, was an acclaimed
4 Cajun accordionist and vocalist whose baritone voice and songwriting talents made him a
5 beloved figure in Cajun music; and

6 WHEREAS, Richard, founder of "The Musical Aces", was inducted into the Cajun
7 French Music Association's Hall of Fame in 1997, recognized as a "Living Legend" by the
8 Acadian Museum in 2003, and named Male Vocalist of the Year in 2004 by the Cajun
9 French Music Association; and

10 WHEREAS, Leland Colligan, also with ties to Cankton, began handcrafting
11 accordions in 1983 under the brand "Acadiana Triple Hearts" and became known for both
12 his musicianship and his craftsmanship, creating high-quality, custom accordions that have
13 been used by amateur and professional musicians alike; and

14 WHEREAS, Colligan's lifelong dedication to Cajun music and instrument making
15 has contributed significantly to preserving and advancing this unique cultural art form; and

16 WHEREAS, other celebrated accordion players from the Cankton area include
17 Clarence "Junior" Martin, Phil Menard, Mack Comeaux, Alex Touchet, and Felix Richard
18 and his son Sterling Richard of the band "Cankton Express", each of whom has enriched the
19 musical heritage of Louisiana; and

20 WHEREAS, beyond these notable names, Cankton is home to many more local
21 accordion players who gather at family events, community dances, and cultural festivals to
22 play and preserve Cajun music, ensuring the continuation of this beloved tradition; and

23 WHEREAS, the village of Cankton has rightfully earned recognition for producing,
24 supporting, and sustaining Cajun accordion music through its people, values, and culture.

25 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
26 does hereby recognize and commend the village of Cankton for its historical and cultural
27 contributions to Cajun music and does hereby designate the village of Cankton as the
28 "Accordion Capital of Louisiana".

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
30 Cankton Mayor Kevin Coligan.

