

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 361

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRASS

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Recognizes the Donaldsonville Juneteenth Celebration and commends the oldest African American businesses of Donaldsonville, Louisiana, for their contributions to the prosperity of the city

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To recognize the Donaldsonville Juneteenth Celebration and to commend the oldest African
3 American businesses of Donaldsonville, Louisiana, for their contributions to the
4 prosperity of the city.

5 WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as Juneteenth Independence Day or Freedom
6 Day commemorates June 19, 1865, the announcement of the abolition of slavery in the U.S.
7 state of Texas, and more generally the emancipation of non-convict enslaved African
8 Americans throughout the former Confederate States of America, outside Native American
9 lands; and

10 WHEREAS, Texas was the most remote of the slave states, and the Emancipation
11 Proclamation of January 1, 1863, was not enforced there until after the Confederacy
12 collapsed; the name of the observance is a combination of "June" and "nineteenth", the date
13 of its celebration; and

14 WHEREAS, the Donaldsonville Juneteenth Celebration began in 1995 by the late
15 Mayor Bernard Joseph Francis and his late wife Janet Ganes Francis; the River Road African
16 American Museum and other community volunteers later took on responsibility for the
17 festival, and in 2011, the city of Donaldsonville, Mayor Leroy J. Sullivan, Sr., Allison
18 Hudson, and Tamiko Francis Garrison, the daughter of Bernard and Janet Francis, assumed
19 coordination of the festival; in 2023, Tamiko Terraz Stroud, the granddaughter of Bernard
20 and Janet Francis, replaced Allison Hudson, and Wayne Hamilton joined the committee; and

1 WHEREAS, the city of Donaldsonville, the Donaldsonville Juneteenth Committee
2 members, and volunteers celebrate thirty years of hosting festivals; and

3 WHEREAS, the mayor, city council, and Juneteenth Festival Committee will be
4 recognizing and honoring the oldest African American businesses in Donaldsonville; and

5 WHEREAS, Donaldsonville Marble and Granite holds the distinct honor of being
6 the oldest African American business operating in the city of Donaldsonville; it was opened
7 in 1875; and

8 WHEREAS, Brazier-Watson Funeral Home, Inc., holds the distinct honor of being
9 the second oldest African American business operating in the city of Donaldsonville, opened
10 in 1944; and

11 WHEREAS, Jay's Liquor holds the distinct honor of being the third oldest African
12 American business operating in the city of Donaldsonville, opened in 1952; and

13 WHEREAS, Demby & Sons Funeral Home, Inc., holds the distinct honor of being
14 the fourth oldest African American business operating in the city of Donaldsonville, opened
15 in 1958; and

16 WHEREAS, the Law Office of Benjamin L. Johnson holds the distinct honor of
17 being the fifth oldest African American business operating in the city of Donaldsonville,
18 opened in 1979; and

19 WHEREAS, the Mt. Olive Vault Company, Inc., holds the distinct honor of being
20 the sixth oldest African American business operating in the city of Donaldsonville, opened
21 in 1981; and

22 WHEREAS, Cajun Daiquiris holds the distinct honor of being the seventh oldest
23 African American business operating in the city of Donaldsonville, opened in 1995; and

24 WHEREAS, the success of these businesses can be attributed to many factors,
25 including service to the community, dedicated employees, offering quality products, and
26 customer satisfaction.

27 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
28 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the Donaldsonville Juneteenth Celebration
29 and does hereby commend the oldest African American businesses of Donaldsonville,
30 Louisiana, for their contributions to the prosperity of the city.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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