

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 361

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRASS

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES