

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 56

BY SENATOR JENKINS

A RESOLUTION

To commend Niematulai DiGrazia, a nationally-renowned chef, for her culinary contributions to the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Niematulai DiGrazia, a native of Sierra Leone, West Africa, and now a resident of Louisiana, began her culinary journey inspired by her mother's resourceful approach to preparing fresh meals with limited resources, instilling in her a deep understanding of food as a symbol of love, resilience, and community; and

WHEREAS, this early foundation has profoundly shaped Chef DiGrazia, allowing her to infuse her work with cultural authenticity and purpose while sharing the rich traditions of West Africa alongside the many flavors of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, her entrepreneurial vision along with her culinary expertise led to the creation of RNL's Cookery Corner, an Afro-Fusion food truck, which later evolved into a permanent brick-and-mortar establishment, Niema's Cookery Corner, reflecting both her innovation and the strong community support for her culinary contributions; and

WHEREAS, Chef DiGrazia has been recognized for her excellence and influence, including being named in "Chefs to Watch 2022" by *Southern Living* magazine and being honored as one of north Louisiana's Best Chefs in 2019 by the Prize Foundation, affirming her status as a leading figure in the culinary landscape of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Chef DiGrazia has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to elevating the culinary identity of Shreveport-Bossier and northwest Louisiana on national platforms; and

WHEREAS, through her appearances and achievements on nationally recognized culinary programs, including "Beat Bobby Flay", "Fight Like a Lion", "Chef's Grudge Match", "So Sous Me", and "Chopped", Chef DiGrazia has consistently showcased the rich traditions, innovation, and cultural depth of Louisiana cuisine; and

WHEREAS, Chef DiGrazia has further distinguished herself through her service as a culinary ambassador, having prepared and presented cuisine for members of the Louisiana Senate and other civic leaders, thereby strengthening connections between culture, governance, and community pride; and

WHEREAS, her journey to becoming a thriving culinary entrepreneur in Louisiana stands as a testament to Chef DiGrazia's perseverance, innovation, and the powerful role of cultural heritage in shaping communities in Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and express deep appreciation for Chef Niematulai DiGrazia's ongoing work as a culinary ambassador contributing to Louisiana's ongoing legacy as a culinary destination, as well as her culinary contributions to the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Chef Niematulai DiGrazia.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE