

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 121

BY REPRESENTATIVE MUSCARELLO

COMMENDATIONS: Commends the Italian Festival Royal Court on the occasion of the 2026 Italian Festival

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Italian Festival Royal Court on the occasion of the 2026 Italian Festival.

3 WHEREAS, the Italian Festival is a unique event held each April in Tickfaw,
4 Louisiana, that has become a beloved tradition for both locals and visitors alike; and

5 WHEREAS, the original festival was organized in 1973 and was known as "The
6 Little Italy Festival"; the village of Tickfaw began hosting the Italian Festival in 2009; and

7 WHEREAS, citizens of Italian descent make up a significant portion of south
8 Louisiana's population, and their communities have had a tremendous impact on Louisiana
9 culture, from architectural masonry and foodways to jazz and brass band music; and

10 WHEREAS, the annual Italian Festival in Tickfaw is a family-friendly celebration
11 of Italian-American culture and heritage featuring carnival rides, entertainment from local
12 bands, a parade, a ball, and a pageant; there is a spaghetti cook-off where judges select
13 winners in the categories of gravy, meatballs, and table decorations; and

14 WHEREAS, Lily DiBenedetto, a young woman of many gifts and talents, reigns as
15 the 2026 Italian Festival Queen; Kim Notariano reigns as the Spaghetti Queen; Veda Abene
16 reigns as Grand Marshal; and Carlos Notariano reigns as King; and

17 WHEREAS, the 2026 Italian Festival royal court also includes Teen Queen, Kailyn
18 DeMarco; Junior Queen, Bayley Thompson; Deb Queen, Mila Fonseca; Little Queen, Joanna
19 Oliphant; Petite Queen, Amelia Prima; Tiny Queen, Raelyn Wright; Toddler Queen,
20 Lakelynn Wright; and Princess, Victoria Bender; Robert Fugarino serves as the chairperson
21 for this year's festival; and

1 WHEREAS, the 2026 Italian Festival is being held April 24-26, 2026; and
2 WHEREAS, the organizers, volunteers, and royal court of the 2026 Italian Festival
3 in Tickfaw merit a sincere and heartfelt measure of commendation for the tremendous pride
4 and honor that this wonderful annual event brings to the citizens of Louisiana.
5 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
6 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Italian Festival Royal Court on the
7 occasion of the 2026 Italian Festival in Tickfaw, Louisiana, and does hereby recognize this
8 special event as an integral part of the celebration of Italian-American culture and history
9 in the state of Louisiana.

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)]

HR 121 Original

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