

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 222

BY REPRESENTATIVE WALTERS

HONORARY DESIGNATIONS: Designates the city of Shreveport as the Southern Soul City

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To designate the city of Shreveport as the Southern Soul City and the official founder of  
3 Southern Soul.

4 WHEREAS, Southern Soul is an eclectic derivative of soul music that emerged in  
5 the Southern United States, blending elements of blues, rhythm and blues, gospel, and  
6 occasionally country and rock n' roll; and

7 WHEREAS, in the Southern Soul Capital of Shreveport, Louisiana, the sound and  
8 culture of Southern Soul influences every aspect of life, from music played in entertainment  
9 venues to the food served at restaurants; and

10 WHEREAS, Shreveport's connection to what evolved into the Southern Soul genre  
11 dates back to the 1930s, as the birthplace and home of blues legend Huddie "Lead Belly"  
12 Ledbetter; and

13 WHEREAS, Shreveport was a popular tour stop among African American  
14 performers who performed in the city's night clubs in the earlier days, which served as  
15 proving grounds for artists like James Brown, John Lee Hooker, Bobby Rush, and many  
16 more; and

17 WHEREAS, Carl Sims is widely regarded as the godfather of Southern Soul Music  
18 due to his significant contributions to the genre; and

19 WHEREAS, many of the most revered record labels in Southern Soul history were  
20 located in Shreveport, including Jewel, Ronn, and Paula Records; and

1           WHEREAS, Jewel Records played a vital role in the growth of soul music in  
2 Shreveport by establishing a vibrant music scene that contributed in meaningful ways to the  
3 local economy; and

4           WHEREAS, Jewel Records was founded in 1963 in Shreveport, Louisiana, by Stan  
5 and Paula Lewis; and

6           WHEREAS, Jewel Records was one of the only recording studios for African  
7 American soul and blues artists in the south in the 1960s and was a major distributor for soul  
8 and blues music in Louisiana and Mississippi; and

9           WHEREAS, Jewel Records recorded artists such as John Lee Hooker, Lightnin'  
10 Hopkins, and Little John Taylor; and

11           WHEREAS, disc jockeys stopped playing traditional blues and soul music; and

12           WHEREAS, at the time, Leonard J. Lewis, the son of Stan Lewis, observed that  
13 every artist that was being played was from the south and stated, "it's like Southern Soul";  
14 and

15           WHEREAS, E. Rodney Jones affirmed Len Lewis' observation and stated that such  
16 music was to be called "Southern Soul"; and

17           WHEREAS, Garland Jones, a former employee of Jewel Records, created the first  
18 Southern Soul music compilation; and

19           WHEREAS, Leonard J. Lewis and Garland Jones developed and promoted the genre  
20 and worked together to create air play for Southern Soul music; and

21           WHEREAS, "Southern Soul" was registered within the trademark database of the  
22 Louisiana Secretary of State by Leonard J. Lewis, in Shreveport, Louisiana, on June 28,  
23 2001; and

24           WHEREAS, this genre of music serves to bridge the gaps of age, race, socio-  
25 economic status, and musical preference by bringing together individuals of varying  
26 backgrounds to celebrate music that truly moves the soul; and

27           WHEREAS, September is the month Shreveport will observe Southern Soul history  
28 recognizing it as "Southern Soul September"; and

1           WHEREAS, this honor is worthy of extending beyond a monthly or periodic  
2 celebration to an official recognition of Shreveport, Louisiana, as the Southern Soul City  
3 based on its contributions to originating the sound and continuing its growth and popularity.

4           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
5 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate the city of Shreveport as the Southern Soul  
6 City and the official founder of Southern Soul.

7           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
8 mayor of Shreveport, the chair of the board of directors of the Shreveport-Bossier African  
9 American Chamber of Commerce, the chairman of the board of directors of the Shreveport  
10 Regional Airport, the president of the board of control of the Shreve Memorial Library, the  
11 vice president of business development of the Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist  
12 Bureau and the Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission, and the commissioner of the  
13 Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

---

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 222 Original

2026 Regular Session

Walters

Designates the city of Shreveport, La., as the Southern Soul City and the official founder of Southern Soul.