

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 108

BY SENATOR JENKINS

A RESOLUTION

To recognize Eddie Eugene Hughes and his culinary legacy, bestowed upon the city of Shreveport, which created the "Shreveport Stuffed Shrimp Festival Day" event.

WHEREAS, Eddie Eugene Hughes, alongside his wife Lois Bryant-Hughes and their children: Geno, Ora, and Mavice, founded Eddie's Seafood and Soul Food Restaurant in 1978 at the corner of Hollywood Avenue and Union Avenue in Shreveport, creating a family-owned establishment that became a cornerstone of food, fellowship, entrepreneurship, and community service; and

WHEREAS, the Shreveport-style stuffed shrimp gained regional and statewide recognition through the historic Freeman & Harris Cafe in downtown Shreveport, where legendary culinary pioneer Eddie Eugene Hughes was widely credited as one of the original developers and early innovators of the renowned dish, helping establish a lasting legacy within Louisiana cuisine and African American culinary history; and

WHEREAS, the Shreveport Stuffed Shrimp Festival represents a unique cultural celebration rooted in a culinary tradition, highlighting a signature seafood delicacy that has become a symbol of Shreveport pride, heritage, and community identity; and

WHEREAS, Eddie's Seafood and Soul Food Restaurant has achieved a remarkable milestone, celebrating forty-eight years as one of Louisiana's oldest continuously family-owned and operated restaurant establishment, serving generations of citizens and visitors with excellence, hospitality, and tradition; and

WHEREAS, the festival, developed through the efforts of the Eddie G. Hughes Foundation and supported by community partners, businesses, organizations, and citizens, reflects a shared commitment to preserving local culture, honoring mothers and families, uplifting future generations, and strengthening the spirit of Shreveport through collaboration and community investment; and

WHEREAS, the Shreveport Stuffed Shrimp Festival serves not only as a celebration of food and culture, but also as an opportunity to promote community unity, tourism, health awareness, education, and positive fellowship throughout the city of Shreveport and Caddo Parish, while supporting scholarships and charitable initiatives benefitting local students and families; and

WHEREAS, the annual Shreveport Stuffed Shrimp Festival will be celebrated on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10, 2026, with opening ceremonies beginning at 11:11 am at Festival Plaza in Downtown Shreveport, bringing together residents and visitors alike for a day dedicated to celebration, heritage, and community pride.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Sunday, May 10, 2026, as "Shreveport Stuffed Shrimp Festival Day" and does hereby recognize and commend the outstanding legacy and contributions of Eddie Eugene Hughes, the Hughes family, and all those who continue to preserve, promote, and celebrate this treasured culinary and cultural tradition that remains an important part of the history and identity of the city of Shreveport and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Eddie Eugene Hughes' family through Ms. Thigpen.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE