

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 120

BY SENATOR HODGES

A RESOLUTION

To commend Louisiana's Jewish-American citizens for their contributions to the state and nation, to recognize May 2026 as Jewish American Heritage Month in Louisiana, and to join with other states in encouraging Christians and persons of all faith traditions to join with their Jewish neighbors in observing a Shabbat from sundown on May 15, 2026, through nightfall on May 16, 2026, as a time of prayer, reflection, gratitude, and thanksgiving to Almighty God in celebration of the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States.

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2026, President Donald J. Trump issued a proclamation recognizing May 2026 as Jewish American Heritage Month; calling upon the nation, in anticipation of the 250th anniversary of the United States of America, to observe a national Shabbat from sundown on May 15, 2026, through nightfall on May 16, 2026, as a time of prayer, reflection, rest, gratitude, and thanksgiving to Almighty God, and as an opportunity for families and communities to gather in recognition of the blessings of faith, freedom, and national unity; and

WHEREAS, Jewish-Americans have contributed immeasurably to the cultural, economic, scientific, educational, military, and civic development of the United States since the founding of the nation; and

WHEREAS, among the early patriots who supported the cause of American liberty and independence was Haym Salomon, a Jewish patriot and financier who played a critical role in supporting the Continental Congress and aiding the Revolutionary War effort through financial services and personal sacrifice, helping to sustain the cause of liberty during the nation's founding struggle for freedom; and

WHEREAS, President George Washington, in his historic 1790 letter to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island, articulated one of the enduring principles of American religious liberty, declaring that the United States "gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance", a statement that continues to reflect the nation's commitment to religious freedom and equal protection under the law for all people; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana is enriched by Jewish citizens and institutions that have contributed to the arts, business, medicine, law, education, charitable endeavors, public leadership, and the preservation of religious liberty throughout the state's history; and

WHEREAS, Christians acknowledge with gratitude the enduring witness and heritage of the Jewish people, through whom the Scriptures were preserved and through whose long historical experience and testimony the broader principles of faith, religious identity, and religious liberty have been strengthened and advanced; and

WHEREAS, Israel and in particular Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria are historically and Biblically significant regions of Israel that hold profound religious and cultural importance in the shared heritage of Judaism and Christianity and are among the principal places where the Holy Bible records many events of the Hebrew prophets and the life and ministry of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, the enduring influence of Israel, and especially Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, is reflected throughout Louisiana and the United States in the names of communities, churches, religious institutions, and places inspired by the history, geography, and traditions of the Holy Land and our shared Judeo-Christian heritage; and

WHEREAS, May is nationally recognized as Jewish American Heritage Month, first proclaimed in 2006 and observed annually to celebrate the accomplishments and heritage of Jewish-Americans; and

WHEREAS, in further recognition of Jewish American Heritage Month and in anticipation of the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States of America, the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana joins with other states across the nation in encouraging Christians and persons of all faith traditions to join with their Jewish neighbors in observing a Shabbat from sundown on May 15, 2026, through nightfall on May 16, 2026, as a time of prayer, reflection, rest, gratitude, and thanksgiving to Almighty God.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Louisiana's Jewish-American citizens for their contributions to the state and nation, recognizes May 2026 as Jewish American Heritage Month in Louisiana, and joins with other states in encouraging Christians and persons of all faith traditions to join with their Jewish neighbors in observing a Shabbat from sundown on May 15, 2026, through nightfall on May 16, 2026, as a time of prayer, reflection, gratitude, and thanksgiving to Almighty God in celebration of the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Consulate General of Israel to the Southwest, in Houston, Texas, for distribution to appropriate representatives of the Jewish communities in Louisiana and such other officials or entities as deemed appropriate.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE