

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 87

BY SENATORS LAMBERT AND PRICE AND REPRESENTATIVES BACALA,
BRASS, EDMONSTON AND WILEY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the passing of Walter "Wally" Taillon, "Mr. Jambalaya", beloved community leader, master cook, mentor, and longtime champion of the Gonzales Jambalaya Festival.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that the Legislature of Louisiana has learned of the passing of Walter "Wally" Taillon, of Gonzales, Louisiana, a beloved community leader, master cook, mentor, and longtime champion of the Gonzales Jambalaya Festival, who departed this life at the age of eighty; and

WHEREAS, Wally Taillon devoted decades of faithful service to preserving and promoting one of Louisiana's most treasured culinary traditions through his leadership and dedication to the Gonzales Jambalaya Festival Association; and

WHEREAS, affectionately known throughout the community as "Mr. Jambalaya", Mr. Taillon served as president of the Gonzales Jambalaya Festival Association for more than twenty years, guiding the organization with vision, integrity, and unwavering commitment; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the festival experienced tremendous growth and stability, including the successful return of the event to Gonzales in 1999 after it had been relocated to various sites, thereby restoring an important cultural and civic tradition to its rightful home; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Taillon played an instrumental role in establishing a permanent headquarters for the festival association, transforming what once consisted merely of rented storage units into a lasting home for the organization and its cherished traditions; and

WHEREAS, as the World Champion Jambalaya cook in 1993, Wally Taillon's talents extended far beyond competition, as he became a respected mentor to generations of cooks who followed in his footsteps and competed in the Gonzales Jambalaya Festival and World Championship competitions; and

WHEREAS, his love for people and his generosity were legendary throughout Ascension Parish and beyond, as he was known to provide meals, assistance, encouragement, and support to anyone in need, often from his own pocket and without hesitation; and

WHEREAS, family, friends, and community members alike remember Wally Taillon as a pillar of the Gonzales community whose compassion, humility, and servant's heart touched countless lives; and

WHEREAS, his enduring legacy will continue through the many individuals he mentored, the traditions he helped preserve, and the community spirit he embodied so faithfully throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, Walter is survived by his wife, Rita, and children, Darrin and Kellie, and his passing leaves a tremendous void in the hearts of those who knew and loved him, the people of Louisiana remain grateful for his extraordinary contributions to the culture, heritage, and fellowship that define the state's unique way of life.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt and sincere condolences upon the passing of Walter "Wally" Taillon and does honor his life of service, leadership, generosity, and dedication to the Gonzales community and the Gonzales Jambalaya Festival Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Walter "Wally" Taillon as an expression of the legislature's deepest sympathy and enduring respect.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES