

1 WHEREAS, closing the event will be a jam session featuring Lady Liz Neville,
2 former lead vocalist in the Hotel Bentley's Mirror Room, along with the LMHOF "Legends"
3 band on Little Walter's classic hits, "Juke" and "My Babe"; and

4 WHEREAS, Little Walter revolutionized the sound of the blues harmonica through
5 amplification just by claspings a microphone to the harmonica as he played; and

6 WHEREAS, Little Walter was born Marion Walter Jacobs on May 1, 1930 in
7 Marksville near what is now known as Spring Bayou Road, moved to Alexandria as a young
8 boy, and learned to play the harmonica on Lee Street, where a historical marker was erected
9 near the house in which he was raised; and

10 WHEREAS, his revolutionary approach to playing the harmonica has earned him
11 comparisons to Charlie Parker and Jimi Hendrix, for innovation and impact on succeeding
12 generations; and

13 WHEREAS, his virtuosity and musical innovations fundamentally altered many
14 listeners' expectations of what was possible on blues harmonica; and

15 WHEREAS, Little Walter made his first released recordings in 1947; joined Muddy
16 Waters' band in 1948; and by 1950, was playing acoustic harmonica on Muddy Waters'
17 recordings; and

18 WHEREAS, Little Walter became a bandleader and the first completed take of the
19 first song attempted at his debut session, "Juke", became his first hit, spending eight weeks
20 in the number-one position on the Billboard R&B chart and is still the only harmonica
21 instrumental ever to become a number-one hit on the Billboard R&B; and

22 WHEREAS, three other harmonica instrumentals by Little Walter also reached the
23 Billboard R&B top 10: "Off the Wall" reached number eight, "Roller Coaster" achieved
24 number six, and "Sad Hours" reached the number-two position; and

25 WHEREAS, Little Walter scored fourteen top-ten hits on the Billboard R&B charts
26 between 1952 and 1958, including two number-one hits (the second being "My Babe" in
27 1955), a level of commercial success never achieved by Muddy Waters; and

28 WHEREAS, upon his departure from Muddy Waters' band in 1952, he recruited a
29 young band that was later re-christened "The Jukes" on most of the Little Walter records on
30 which they appeared; and

1 WHEREAS, Little Walter was inducted to The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2008
2 in the "sideman" category making him the first and only artist ever to be inducted
3 specifically for his work as a harmonica player; and

4 WHEREAS, Little Walter, who died on February 15, 1968, has been described as
5 "king of all post-war blues harpists", who "took the humble mouth organ in dazzling
6 amplified directions that were unimaginable prior to his ascendancy"; is arguably the single
7 most influential artist in the history of the blues harmonica; and his legacy has been
8 enormous as he is widely credited by blues historians as the artist primarily responsible for
9 establishing the standard vocabulary for modern blues and blues rock harmonica players.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby
11 commends the inaugural Little Walter Music Festival to be held in Alexandria on May 4,
12 2013, and acknowledges and recognizes the musical talents and enduring legacy of Little
13 Walter.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

DIGEST

Gallot

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Walter.