

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 155

BY SENATOR MURRAY

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Hubig's Pies for over ninety years of pastry production in New Orleans and for its commitment to continue operations in the Faubourg-Marigny district of the city.

A RESOLUTION

To commend Hubig's Pies for over ninety years of the production of sweet fried pies and pastries that have delighted the palates of five generations of New Orleans consumers and for its commitment to continue its bakery operations within the historic Faubourg-Marigny district of the city.

WHEREAS, Hubig's Pies have been a touchstone in the Faubourg-Marigny landscape since its founding in May 1921, on Dauphine Street, when Simon "The Pieman" Hubig expanded his bakery business to New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Simon Hubig was a visionary and an industrial genius; he patented bakery mechanisms and die cutters that produced six hundred pies an hour in the 1920's and also obtained patents for other innovations that included paper packaging sleeves and shipping crates that are still in use today; each pie is embossed with the caricature of the smiling "Savory Simon" logo that catches the customer's attention; and

WHEREAS, Hubig's Pies remains a local institution, a staple in all manner of retail stores throughout the New Orleans region, and its pies are highly portable, handheld sweet treats that are as much a culinary tradition as beignets, muffulettas, and shrimp po-boys; it is a unique find in the gastronomical cornucopia that is New Orleans cuisine; and

WHEREAS, with all its many successes, Hubig's Pies has been stymied by flood

1 with Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, and by fire in July 2012, but the company has
2 endured, as neither catastrophe has extinguished the pride it has in its product or the will of
3 its owners to persevere and rebuild; and

4 WHEREAS, after Hurricane Katrina, the company's employees came back as soon
5 as possible; they brought their family members to assist in getting the plant up and running
6 again; and often without a steady payroll, the bakery came back online again and at peak
7 capacity in 2011, production was 28,000 pies per day; and

8 WHEREAS, after the fire in 2012, that totally gutted the original plant site, the
9 company rented oven space from a local bakery and, undaunted by the inconvenience,
10 continued to make its famous fried pies; and

11 WHEREAS, a Hubig's Pie has the classic shape of a turnover; one-half of daily
12 production is relegated to apple and lemon, the best-selling flavors, and the rest are made
13 into peach, pineapple, coconut, chocolate, and blueberry pies; and

14 WHEREAS, Hubig's Pies does not advertise but depends on the brand loyalty of its
15 faithful customers; it is the consistency of this fine product that has amassed ninety-one
16 years of repeat business; and

17 WHEREAS, Hubig's Pies has spawned a short subject film, the "Hubig's Pie Factory
18 Tour", which follows the pie-making process from dough to delivery van, an amateur
19 baseball team called the Hubig Piemen, and copious amounts of merchandise that include
20 Mardi Gras costumes and aprons; and

21 WHEREAS, over the years Hubig's Pies has accumulated a treasure trove of local
22 history and a near "cult" following among its customers of every age and demographic; and

23 WHEREAS, the Bowman and Ramsey families are now second generation owners
24 and operators with a third generation ready to take the helm; the thirty full-time employees
25 have been fixtures in the factory for much of their lives; from the pie recipe to the sales
26 strategy, this fiercely traditional New Orleans company has not changed the way it does
27 business in nearly a century; and

28 WHEREAS, the owners and employees of this family-operated business are
29 indicative of the grit, work ethic, and determination that defines the population of the city;
30 this never-say-die attitude speaks of that essence of New Orleans that shall always endure.

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
2 does hereby commend Hubig's Pies, its owners and employees, for over ninety years of
3 production of sweet fried pies and for its commitment to continue operations in the historic
4 Faubourg-Marigny district of New Orleans.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to
6 Lamar Bowman and Otto Ramsey, owners of Hubig's Pies.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Suzi Montague.

DIGEST

Murray

SR No. 155

Commends Hubig's Pies for over 90 years of pastry production and for its commitment to
remain in the Faubourg-Marigny district of New Orleans.