

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 20

BY SENATOR PERRY

A RESOLUTION

To recognize April 23, 2014, as Acadiana Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

WHEREAS, Acadiana is the home of the Cajuns, the descendants of the Acadians, who settled along the bayous and prairies of southwest Louisiana after their expulsion from the colony of Acadie in present-day Nova Scotia in 1755; and

WHEREAS, Acadiana includes twenty-two parishes, and stretches from its western border of Lake Charles to its eastern border of Grand Isle, with its northern apex located around Pointe Coupee; and

WHEREAS, despite the frequent association of Cajuns with swamplands, Acadiana is geographically diverse, and consists of prairies, marshes, and wooded river or bayou lands; and

WHEREAS, Acadiana evinces a commitment to education, and boasts the presence of three universities: the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, McNeese State University, and Nicholls State University; and

WHEREAS, Acadiana is characterized by a diverse population that is nonetheless united by the incredibly rich musical, cultural, and culinary traditions of the Cajuns and Creoles; and

WHEREAS, Acadiana is renowned for wide-ranging and spicy cuisine and is populated by a tantalizing selection of restaurants which offer such Cajun and Creole delicacies as seafood gumbo, crawfish etouffe, and jambalaya; and

WHEREAS, Acadiana is famous for the Cajun and Zydeco music that is born out of the enduring spirit of Acadians and Creoles and is a place where fais do-dos invite listeners to two-step to the rhythms of accordions, fiddles, and 'tit fers; and

WHEREAS, in Acadiana, festivals are as much a part of daily life as good music and good food, with year-round festivals, including Mardi Gras, Festival International de Louisiane, the Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival, the "Le Cajun" Music Awards and Festival, the Southwest Louisiana Zydeco Festival, Festivals Acadiens et Creoles, Best of the Bayou Festival, Louisiana Cotton Festival, Duck Festival, Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival, and

"A Cajun Christmas", a festival that extends throughout the holiday season; and

WHEREAS, in its cuisine, music, and culture, the people of Acadiana are characterized by a cheerful enjoyment of life, what the French call "joie de vivre", that is reflective of a unique heritage and culture that is hard to find anywhere this side of Europe; and

WHEREAS, Acadiana offers a multitude of attractions that mirror the pride Acadiana holds for its past, including majestic plantation homes, vibrant gardens, and exciting museums; and

WHEREAS, Cajun Country is a prime example of why Louisiana is called the "Sportsman's Paradise" and is a place where both freshwater and saltwater fishing, waterfowl hunting, and upland hunting areas are plentiful, from the vast swamp wilderness of the Atchafalaya Basin to the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, the Legislature of Louisiana officially recognized Acadiana for its unique Cajun and Acadian heritage per House Concurrent Resolution No. 496.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize April 23, 2014, as Acadiana Day at the Louisiana State Capitol to celebrate the cuisine, Grammy Award winning music, and culture of Cajun Country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Acadian Delegation.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE