

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 169

BY REPRESENTATIVE GAROFALO

COMMENDATIONS: Commends the Los Isleños of St. Bernard Parish for their contributions to the culture and history of Louisiana

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Los Isleños of St. Bernard Parish for their contributions to the culture and
3 history of Louisiana.

4 WHEREAS, the Canary Islands were explored and colonized by Jean de Bethancort
5 under the instructions of King Henry of Castille beginning in 1399 and ending with the
6 conquest of Tenerife in 1496 thereby becoming the first colony of the Spanish Empire; and

7 WHEREAS, the Canarian chain consists of thirteen islands of which seven are
8 inhabited: Fuerteventura, Lanzarote, Gran Canana, Hierro, Tenerife, LaPalma, and Gomera;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, after France ceded Louisiana to Spain and Great Britain in 1766
11 following the French and Indian War, Spain acquired that portion of Louisiana west of the
12 Mississippi River and the Isle of Orleans located east of the Mississippi including the city
13 of New Orleans; and

14 WHEREAS, in the early 1770s, the British began planning their route through
15 Louisiana to Mexico to capture the vast deposits of Mexican silver and gold which caused
16 the Spanish to develop Louisiana as a barrier between Mexico and the British colonies east
17 of the Mississippi River along the Gulf Coast; and

18 WHEREAS, the Spanish sent colonists, known as Isleños because they had come
19 from the Canary Islands, from all seven of the inhabited Canary Islands to Louisiana
20 between 1778 and 1783 in an effort by the Spanish government to populate Louisiana and
21 halt the British colonial expansion west of the Mississippi River, with those first Isleños

1 settling in four locations strategically placed to defend New Orleans – Galveztown, just
2 south of Baton Rouge; Valenzuela, along Bayou Lafourche; Barataria, along Bayou des
3 Families in Jefferson Parish; and La Concepcion, later San Bernardo, in St. Bernard Parish
4 along Bayou Terre-aux-Boeufs; and

5 WHEREAS, two hundred years ago, the Isleños fought under the command of
6 Governor Bernardo de Galvez in the American Revolution and successfully thwarted the
7 British invasion of Louisiana during the Battle of New Orleans in 1814; and

8 WHEREAS, of the four Isleños settlements, San Bernardo, established in 1779 along
9 Bayou Terre-aux-Boeufs, was the most successful with the farmers there providing most of
10 the garlic, onions, beans, potatoes, and poultry consumed by the residents of nearby New
11 Orleans; and

12 WHEREAS, Isleños social life was centered around family and the Roman Catholic
13 Church with sometimes four generations of family living and working together on the farms
14 along Bayou Terre-aux-Boeufs; and

15 WHEREAS, Manuel Solis and Antonio Mendez, two officials in the Spanish
16 administration of Colonial Louisiana, perfected the process of granulating sugar at their
17 Woodlake Plantation in 1787, a process that enabled sugar to quickly become a profitable
18 cash crop that would replace indigo as the major cash crop in Louisiana; and

19 WHEREAS, not only did the Isleños of St. Bernard Parish influence Louisiana's
20 ability to produce plentiful sugar and her reputation as a sugar-producing region, they were
21 well-known for their fishing communities with the residents of Delacroix, Shell Beach, and
22 Ycloskey harvesting the seafood that supplied the New Orleans restaurants and began the
23 Louisiana reputation for fine Gulf seafood and fine dining in the city of New Orleans; and

24 WHEREAS, the marshes of St. Bernard Parish were nationally recognized for the
25 abundance of mink, muskrat, and other fur-bearing animals which produced highly prized
26 pelts in the years prior to World War II producing a multimillion dollar industry; and

27 WHEREAS, the history of the Isleños and of St. Bernard Parish are inextricably
28 intertwined with the history and renown of the entire state of Louisiana and they have both
29 played a vital role in making Louisiana the state she is today.

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
2 commend the Los Isleños of St. Bernard Parish for their contributions to the culture and
3 history of Louisiana.
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the
5 Los Isleños Heritage & Cultural Society in St. Bernard Parish.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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