

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAZEL

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Olla Rae

3 Montalbano Chicola.

4 WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the

5 Louisiana House of Representatives learned of the death of Olla Rae Montalbano Chicola

6 on February 22, 2018, at the age of ninety-one; and

7 WHEREAS, Olla Rae was born on June 27, 1926, to Tony and Agnes Guillot

8 Montalbano in Bunkie, Louisiana; after graduating from Bunkie High School, she moved

9 to Alexandria and attended business college; and

10 WHEREAS, she met her late husband, Nick Chicola, on a blind date, and they

11 married when he returned from serving in World War II; and

12 WHEREAS, Nick and Olla Rae ran a successful grocery business for forty years,

13 Nick's Food Center; Nick believed in fairness and selling food at the lowest possible prices;

14 and

15 WHEREAS, they nurtured and educated seven children; meals at the Chicola

16 household were legendary; Olla Rae was a master cook, and she shared her treasured recipes

17 with forty direct descendants and friends; and

18 WHEREAS, she loved music, travel, dancing, and singing; and

19 WHEREAS, she was a devout Catholic who practiced her faith in everyday life; Olla

20 Rae was a founding member of St. Francis Cabrini School and Church in Alexandria; and

1 WHEREAS, Father Gerard Foley and a group of parishioners from St. Francis
2 Cabrini Church opened the soup kitchen, Manna House, in Alexandria twenty-eight years
3 ago because of the great number of homeless people in the area; and

4 WHEREAS, Olla Rae was a driving force behind the opening of Manna House; she
5 provided the building on Lee Street, which formerly housed her grocery store, and continued
6 serving in the ministry for many years; and

7 WHEREAS, Olla Rae was resourceful in her efforts to find food for Manna House,
8 which serves eight thousand meals a month; volunteers pick up leftovers from hospitals, day-
9 old bread and bent canned goods from local grocery stores, donuts from Shipley donuts, and
10 produce from correctional institution farms; and

11 WHEREAS, Manna House has a reputation for feeding the hungry seven days a
12 week that extends beyond Louisiana; and

13 WHEREAS, President Clinton awarded Olla Rae the National Service Award for her
14 undaunted efforts to feed thousands of people at the soup kitchen; and

15 WHEREAS, Olla Rae and the Manna House staff and volunteers were called to their
16 work by the words of Matthew 25:35: "When I was hungry, you gave me food."; and

17 WHEREAS, in Louisiana, food is a significant part of life, and making and sharing
18 food is how people connect; and

19 WHEREAS, Olla Rae encouraged volunteers and staff to take a tray and sit down and
20 eat and talk to Manna House clients; she believed that the clients had to have courage, know
21 that God loves them, and to not give up; and

22 WHEREAS, one of her granddaughters who serves as a volunteer says, "The truly
23 amazing aspect of her life was that she gave so much and asked for nothing; she was a
24 humble and grateful woman"; Mrs. Chicola leaves a legacy of a commitment to God, service
25 to her community, and love for all people; and

26 WHEREAS, Olla Rae is survived by five of her seven children and their spouses,
27 Barbara "Bobbie" and her husband Alan, Ronald and his wife Laura, Ted and his wife Kay,
28 David and his wife Sharon, and Monty; her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces,
29 nephews, cousins, and many friends and Manna House staff and volunteers.

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
2 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the
3 death of Olla Rae Montalbano Chicola, a woman who helped feed her community for over
4 twenty years; does hereby extend appreciation for the pride and honor that she will forever
5 bring to the city of Alexandria and to the state of Louisiana; and does hereby recognize and
6 record for posterity her outstanding accomplishments and her legacy of work in feeding the
7 hungry.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
9 to the family of Olla Rae Montalbano Chicola.

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)]

HR 10 Original	2018 First Extraordinary Session	Hazel
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