



1 African-American art gallery, quickly became known as a safe haven for civil right leaders,  
2 activist, politicians, and African-American musicians and entertainers, some of whom could  
3 not eat in New Orleans restaurants during the Jim Crow era; and

4 WHEREAS, Dooky Chase, located in segregated New Orleans, was also a gathering  
5 place where whites and blacks ate together all the time while mapping strategy during the  
6 civil rights movement; and

7 WHEREAS, Leah Chase's meals that reflected the city's Creole heritage, Spanish,  
8 French, and African culinary influences, fed many of New Orleans citizens; the famous, such  
9 as Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush, Martin Luther King Jr., Jesse Jackson,  
10 Thurgood Marshall, Quincy Jones, Duke Ellington, Ray Charles, Nat King Cole, Lena  
11 Horne, Count Basie, James Baldwin, Sarah Vaughan, and those on the front lines of the  
12 struggle for human dignity such as the Freedom Riders and the Amistad Research Center;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Leah Chase, a strong, selfless matriarch, and extraordinary woman of  
15 faith was often heard saying how much she treasured all of her customers and was honored  
16 to have the privilege to meet and serve them; and

17 WHEREAS, Leah Chase's talent and contributions received scores of accolades  
18 including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the James Beard Foundation, the Times-  
19 Picayune Loving Cup, the Louisiana Restaurant Association named her its Restaurateur of  
20 the Year in 2009; honorary degrees from Tulane, Loyola, Dillard, and Johnson & Wales  
21 universities; Our Lady of Holy Cross College; Madonna College, and Xavier University,  
22 which gave her their highest honor, the Francis Anthony Drexel Medal; the Southern Food  
23 and Beverage Museum named a gallery for her and she received awards from the National  
24 Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and a host of other awards; and

25 WHEREAS, in addition to helping to mend a divided country one meal at a time,  
26 Leah Chase continued to give by sharing her cooking secrets in the following cookbooks:  
27 *The Dooky Chase Cookbook, And Still I Cook* and *Down Home Healthy: Family Recipes of*  
28 *Black American Chefs* while often teaching at Chef John Folse's classes at Nicholls State  
29 University; and

30 WHEREAS, Leah Chase is survived by a son, Edgar Chase III, two daughters: Leah

