HLS 19RS-3646 ORIGINAL

2019 Regular Session

1

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 122

BY REPRESENTATIVE JIMMY HARRIS

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Recognizes June 10, 2019, as Leah Chase Day

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To recognize June 10, 2019, as Leah Chase Day.
3	WHEREAS, the late Leah Chase was a gifted chef, a central figure in the civil rights
4	movement, and the executive chef of Dooky Chase's Restaurant in New Orleans; and
5	WHEREAS, Leah Chase was married to the late Edgar "Dooky" Chase, Jr., for
6	seventy years; she was the proud mother of four children; she had sixteen grandchildren and
7	twenty-eight great-grandchildren; and
8	WHEREAS, lovingly known as the "Queen of Creole Cuisine", after marrying Edgar
9	"Dooky" Chase, Jr., in 1946, she took command of the kitchen in the restaurant that her in-
10	laws had opened in 1941 as a po-boy shop; she helped to transform it into a white-tablecloth,
11	destination restaurant; it was the only establishment of its caliber where African Americans
12	could eat in a legally segregated city; and
13	WHEREAS, at a time when many doors were closed for African Americans, Dooky
14	Chase's was always open; it was a safe space and a welcoming environment; by the 1950s,
15	it became a meeting place for activists and civic leaders, both black and white, despite the
16	fact that it was illegal for blacks and whites to eat in restaurants together; Leah Chase fed
17	the Freedom Riders and hosted meetings for the National Association for the Advancement
18	of Colored People; and
19	WHEREAS, the haven she provided and the contributions she made were vital but
20	were not without consequences, as Dooky and Leah received threatening notes and their

1	restaurant was even bombed once; even after segregation laws were overturned, the Chase
2	family's restaurant served as a neutral ground; and
3	WHEREAS, she fed the Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr., Sarah Vaughan, Nat King
4	Cole, Quincy Jones, Jesse Jackson, Duke Ellington, Thurgood Marshall, James Baldwin, Ray
5	Charles, and presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama; and
6	WHEREAS, in 2012, the Chases formed the Edgar "Dooky" Jr. & Leah Chase
7	Family Foundation to support community groups; the foundation seeks to cultivate and
8	support organizations that work for the cultural arts, education, culinary arts, and social
9	justice; and
0	WHEREAS, she was the recipient of numerous notable honors and awards, honored
1	by individuals and organizations like the James Beard Foundation, John Folse, the Coalition
12	of 100 Black Women, the Anti-Defamation League, the <i>Times-Picayune</i> , and <i>NOLA.COM</i> ;
13	and
14	WHEREAS, Leah Chase was a culinary legend and an unwavering advocate for civil
15	rights and full inclusion of all; she was a proud entrepreneur, a believer in the spirit of New
16	Orleans and the good will of all people, and an extraordinary woman of faith; and
17	WHEREAS, Leah Chase deserves recognition for service to her community in so
18	many ways and for so many years; the life and legacy of Leah Chase hold a special place
9	
	in the hearts of many residents of the city of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana.
20	in the hearts of many residents of the city of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
20	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
20 21	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby proclaim June 10, 2019, as Leah Chase Day; does hereby commend Leah Chase for over
20 21 22	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby proclaim June 10, 2019, as Leah Chase Day; does hereby commend Leah Chase for over seven decades of success at the renowned Dooky Chase's Restaurant and her many other
20 21 22 23	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby proclaim June 10, 2019, as Leah Chase Day; does hereby commend Leah Chase for over seven decades of success at the renowned Dooky Chase's Restaurant and her many other accomplishments; and does hereby record for posterity her years of dedication to the

HLS 19RS-3646 ORIGINAL HCR NO. 122

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)]

HCR 122 Original

2019 Regular Session

Jimmy Harris

Recognizes June 10, 2019, as Leah Chase Day.