

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 140

BY SENATORS MORRELL, ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PETERSON, PRICE, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE AND REPRESENTATIVES ABRAHAM, ABRAMSON, ADAMS, AMEDEE, ANDERS, ARMES, BACALA, BAGLEY, BAGNERIS, BARRAS, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, BISHOP, BOUIE, BOURRIAQUE, BRASS, CHAD BROWN, TERRY BROWN, CARMODY, CARPENTER, GARY CARTER, ROBBY CARTER, STEVE CARTER, CHANEY, CONNICK, COUSSAN, COX, CREWS, DAVIS, DEVILLIER, DUBUISSON, DUPLESSIS, DWIGHT, EDMONDS, EMERSON, FALCONER, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, GLOVER, GUINN, JIMMY HARRIS, LANCE HARRIS, HENRY, HILFERTY, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HORTON, HOWARD, HUVAL, IVEY, JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, MIKE JOHNSON, ROBERT JOHNSON, JONES, JORDAN, LACOMBE, NANCY LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LARVADAIN, LEBAS, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LYONS, MACK, MAGEE, MARCELLE, MARINO, MCFARLAND, MCMAHEN, MIGUEZ, DUSTIN MILLER, GREGORY MILLER, MOORE, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, MOSS, MUSCARELLO, NORTON, PEARSON, PIERRE, POPE, PUGH, PYLANT, RICHARD, SCHEXNAYDER, SEABAUGH, SIMON, SMITH, STAGNI, STEFANSKI, STOKES, TALBOT, THOMAS, TURNER, WHITE, WRIGHT AND ZERINGUE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Leah Chase, the "Queen of Creole Cuisine".

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens of Louisiana learned of the death of beloved New Orleans chef, Leah Chase, while surrounded by her family, on June 1, 2019, at the age of ninety-six; and

WHEREAS, Leah L. Chase, born on January 6, 1923, in Madisonville, Louisiana, moved to New Orleans to finish high school and became the world renown matriarch of Creole cuisine; and

WHEREAS, the Chase family stated that their matriarch, Leah Chase's, "Daily joy was not simply cooking, but preparing meals to bring people together."; and

WHEREAS, Leah Chase saw her role and cooking in life, as a vehicle for social

change during a difficult time in our country's history, she is known for practicing what she preached; and

WHEREAS, Leah Chase became the executive chef and co-owner of the historic and legendary Dooky Chase's Restaurant with her husband, local jazz trumpeter Edgar "Dooky" Chase Jr., in 1946; and

WHEREAS, the Dooky Chase Restaurant, an elegant sit-down Creole restaurant and African-American art gallery, quickly became known as a safe haven for civil right leaders, activist, politicians, and African-American musicians and entertainers, some of whom could not eat in New Orleans restaurants during the Jim Crow era; and

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Leah Chase is survived by a son, Edgar Chase III, two daughters: Leah Chase Kamata and Stella Chase Reese, as well as siblings, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who have stated they will continue her legacy of "work, pray, and do for others"; and

WHEREAS, Leah Chase's famous "gumbo z'herbes", fried chicken, and other dishes created a powerful avenue of unity for many who consider her a legend, an icon, an inspiration, and a trailblazer, who lived her remarkable life well, which will be forever treasured and celebrated by her family and countless friends.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Leah Chase, the "Queen of Creole Cuisine" and extend enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that her family will continue by living her legacy that she exemplified throughout her life of service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to attorney Christian J. Rhodes.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES