

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 129

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUSTIN MILLER

A RESOLUTION

To designate each June 25 from 2021 to 2025 as Clifton Chenier Day in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Clifton Chenier was born on June 25, 1925, near Opelousas, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chenier helped to pioneer the development of zydeco music, a southern Louisiana blend of blues rhythms and French, African-American, Native American, and Afro-Caribbean traditions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chenier was billed as the "king of zydeco" and helped to popularize zydeco music by infusing R&B and swing into his music with his chromatic piano accordion; and

WHEREAS, in 1954, Mr. Chenier began his recording career under the Elko Records label, and from his first recording session at the Lake Charles radio station KAOK, the regional hit singles "Clifton's Blues" and "Louisiana Stomp" were born; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, Mr. Chenier signed with Specialty Records and garnered his first national hit with his label debut entitled "Ay-Tete-Fi" (Hey, Little Girl), which was a cover of a song by Professor Longhair; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, Mr. Chenier formed the Red Hot Louisiana Band, which featured his brother and rubboard player Cleveland Chenier, saxophonist John Hart, guitarist Paul 'Lil' Buck' Sinegal, guitarist Joe Brouchet, drummer Robert St. Julien, and Stanley "Buckwheat" Dural, who later started the Grammy- and Emmy-winning band Buckwheat Zydeco; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chenier traveled throughout Europe introducing zydeco to the world; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Mr. Chenier received a Grammy award for his album entitled *I'm Here*; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, Mr. Chenier won a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, an award which is the nation's highest honor with respect to folk and traditional arts; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Mr. Chenier and his band were inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame for the 1975 album *Bogalusa Boogie*, and during the same year, Mr. Chenier was inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Mr. Chenier received the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, a distinct honor that recognizes the creative contributions of music's elite artists; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chenier died on December 12, 1987, in Lafayette, Louisiana, and was buried in All Souls Cemetery in Loreauville, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chenier has made a significant mark on Creole and zydeco music by creating a distinct musical style not only for the state of Louisiana but for the world as a whole.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize each June 25 from 2021 to 2025 as Clifton Chenier Day in Louisiana, and hereby acknowledges the extraordinary musical accomplishments of this legendary Louisiana musician.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES