

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 121

BY REPRESENTATIVE MUSCARELLO

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Italian Festival Royal Court on the occasion of the 2026 Italian Festival.

WHEREAS, the Italian Festival is a unique event held each April in Tickfaw, Louisiana, that has become a beloved tradition for both locals and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, the original festival was organized in 1973 and was known as "The Little Italy Festival"; the village of Tickfaw began hosting the Italian Festival in 2009; and

WHEREAS, citizens of Italian descent make up a significant portion of south Louisiana's population, and their communities have had a tremendous impact on Louisiana culture, from architectural masonry and foodways to jazz and brass band music; and

WHEREAS, the annual Italian Festival in Tickfaw is a family-friendly celebration of Italian-American culture and heritage featuring carnival rides, entertainment from local bands, a parade, a ball, and a pageant; there is a spaghetti cook-off where judges select winners in the categories of gravy, meatballs, and table decorations; and

WHEREAS, Lily DiBenedetto, a young woman of many gifts and talents, reigns as the 2026 Italian Festival Queen; Kim Notariano reigns as the Spaghetti Queen; Veda Abene reigns as Grand Marshal; and Carlos Notariano reigns as King; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Italian Festival royal court also includes Teen Queen, Kailyn DeMarco; Junior Queen, Bayley Thompson; Deb Queen, Mila Fonseca; Little Queen, Joanna Oliphant; Petite Queen, Amelia Prima; Tiny Queen, Raelyn Wright; Toddler Queen, Lakelynn Wright; and Princess, Victoria Bender; Robert Fugarino serves as the chairperson for this year's festival; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Italian Festival is being held April 24-26, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the organizers, volunteers, and royal court of the 2026 Italian Festival in Tickfaw merit a sincere and heartfelt measure of commendation for the tremendous pride and honor that this wonderful annual event brings to the citizens of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Italian Festival Royal Court on the occasion of the 2026 Italian Festival in Tickfaw, Louisiana, and does hereby recognize this special event as an integral part of the celebration of Italian-American culture and history in the state of Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES