

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 29

BY SENATORS BROWN AND LAMBERT

A RESOLUTION

To recognize St. James Parish as the Perique Tobacco Capital of the World.

WHEREAS, St. James Parish is one of Louisiana's nineteen original parishes, created by act of the territorial legislature on March 31, 1807; and

WHEREAS, St. James Parish is part of the Acadian Coast in which Acadians settled along the Mississippi River in present-day St. James in 1776; and

WHEREAS, St. James Parish, often referred to as the Gem of the Mississippi River, prides itself of its unique culture and heritage; and

WHEREAS, St. James Parish is the only cultivation site in the world for Perique Tobacco, a unique and rare type of tobacco, introduced by Acadian exile, a farmer, Pierre Chenet, whose nickname was "Perique" in 1824; and

WHEREAS, Pierre Chenet's granddaughter, Coralie Decareau, married Celestin Poche in February 1829, and the Poche family has been involved in the cultivation and processing of Perique Tobacco through current times; and

WHEREAS, Perique Tobacco, known for its strong, powerful, sweet and fruity aroma, is the world's exclusive source of tobacco grown in St. James Parish; and

WHEREAS, often considered the truffle of pipe tobaccos, Perique Tobacco is used as a condiment to make nearly a hundred different brand name pipe tobaccos from around the world; and

WHEREAS, Perique Tobacco is used in some cigarettes, and most recently used in cigars; and in a French liquor; and

WHEREAS, fewer than fifty acres of this crop remain in cultivation with most Louisiana Perique Tobacco being cultivated by the Poche, Martin, LeBlanc, Roussel, and Gravois farming families in or near Grand Pointe, Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby declare St. James Parish as the Perique Tobacco Capital of the World.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Timothy P. Roussel, St. James Parish President and the St. James Parish Council.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE