HLS 13RS-402 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2013

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24

BY REPRESENTATIVE PUGH

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Recognizes Tuesday, April 9, 2013, as Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Day

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To recognize Tuesday, April 9, 2013, as Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Day.
3	WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend the organizers and volunteers of the
4	Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival and to recognize Tuesday, April 9, 2013, as Ponchatoula
5	Strawberry Festival Day; and
6	WHEREAS, the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board was organized in 1971, and
7	the first festival was held in April of 1972; and
8	WHEREAS, the first Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival was cosponsored by the
9	Ponchatoula Jaycees and the Ponchatoula Chamber of Commerce, and both organizations
0	provided three members to serve on the festival board; and
1	WHEREAS, the planning committee and many other interested volunteers worked
12	diligently for months planning the first festival, which was located on the first block of North
13	Sixth Street and only had eleven booths; and
14	WHEREAS, the first Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival was a two-day event that
15	began with a baseball game between Southeastern Louisiana University and Wisconsin
16	State, and later that day, the first annual parade made its way through Ponchatoula with
17	sixty-five units from all over the state; and
18	WHEREAS, estimated attendance for the weekend of the first Ponchatoula
19	Strawberry Festival was fifteen thousand; and
20	WHEREAS, the first royal court of the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival consisted
21	of Queen Sissy Dufreche, King Fred Beachamp, and Princess Sandy Smith, and the queen

1	and her court made several appearances on television and radio stations throughout the state
2	to publicize the festival; and
3	WHEREAS, during his first term in office, Governor Edwin Edwards proclaimed
4	April as Strawberry Festival Month; and
5	WHEREAS, from the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival's humble beginning, it has
6	evolved into a Louisiana celebration second only to Mardi Gras in its magnitude; and
7	WHEREAS, today, the annual Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival is organized by the
8	Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board, Inc., which is comprised of a chairperson,
9	chairperson-elect, treasurer, secretary, parliamentarian, and other essential positions; and
10	WHEREAS, decisions of the festival board are the responsibility of the sixteen
11	voting board members who represent various organizations, including the Ponchatoula
12	Chamber of Commerce, the Ponchatoula Jaycees, the Ponchatoula Rotary Club, the
13	Ponchatoula Kiwanis, the Knights of Columbus, Ponchatoula Youth Baseball, the Champ
14	Cooper School, and the Ponchatoula Lions Club; and
15	WHEREAS, the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board is a proud member of the
16	Louisiana Association of Fairs and Festivals; and
17	WHEREAS, today, the official Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival grounds include
18	Memorial Park and the first two blocks of North Sixth Street; and
19	WHEREAS, the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival continually draws a huge crowd
20	that strolls through America's Antique City and watches one of the biggest parades in South
21	Louisiana; and
22	WHEREAS, for more than thirty years, the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival has
23	provided a fundraising venue as a fundraiser for nonprofit and charitable organizations, and
24	the festival prides itself as being one of the only festivals in which nonprofit organizations
25	are the only vendors on the official festival grounds; and
26	WHEREAS, the 2013 Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival is being held from April 12
27	through April 14, 2013, in Ponchatoula, Louisiana; and
28	WHEREAS, the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival and its organizers and volunteers
29	merit a sincere measure of commendation for their contributions to the culture and economy
30	of the state of Louisiana.

HLS 13RS-402 ORIGINAL HCR NO. 24

- THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
- 2 recognize Tuesday, April 9, 2013, as Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Day and does hereby
- 3 celebrate the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival as an integral part of the culture and history
- 4 of the city of Ponchatoula and the state of Louisiana.
- 5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
- 6 to the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board, Inc.

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)]

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