

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 9

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

A RESOLUTION

To commend John Oswald Colson upon his 2019 induction into the Louisiana Folklife Center Hall of Master Folk Artists.

WHEREAS, established in 1976, the Louisiana Folklife Center is a research facility that serves as an archival repository of eight hundred artist and subject files, one thousand five hundred audio recordings, one hundred videotapes, a growing print library of books and periodicals, and five thousand photographs; these resources have been used by CBS Evening News, Turner Broadcasting Company, and Louisiana Public Broadcasting and other individuals, groups, and agencies; its faculty also coordinates the Natchitoches-Northwestern State University Folklife Festival; and

WHEREAS, an agency of Northwestern State University, the Center's mission is to identify, document, and present Louisiana's rich history of folklore and folklife; and

WHEREAS, deeply rooted in Louisiana's folklife is its inimitable cuisine, and John Oswald Colson is a purveyor of the roux upon which much of the state's deliciously edible and choice cuisine is based; he is a consummate *filé* maker, having acquired the skill from his mother and the generations before her; for more than sixty years, John has continued the tradition of the Colson family to provide *filé* for the Cane River community; he also is a tour guide and an oral historian; and

WHEREAS, John Colson participates annually in the Natchitoches-Northwestern State University Folklife Festival and contributes to projects and events for the Cane River Creole National Historical Park, the Cane River National Heritage Area, Northwestern State University's Creole Heritage Center, the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, the St. Augustine Society of Isle Brevelle, the Experience Louisiana Festival in Eunice, Creole Culture Day at Vermilionville, the Sassafras Festival in Texas, and summer workshops at the Tunica-Biloxi Museum in Marksville; and

WHEREAS, in October 2018, Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser officially recognized John Oswald Colson as a Louisiana Tradition Bearer; his expertise in the preparation of *filé* seasoning, his vast knowledge of Cane River, and his ability to relate the histories of his hometown community have simmered together in John to produce a cultural and historical human gumbo with the distinct flavor of Louisiana; John Oswald Colson merits a special measure of commendation upon his 2019 induction into the Louisiana Folklife Center Hall of Master Folk Artists.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend John Oswald Colson upon his 2019 induction into the Louisiana Folklife Center Hall of Master Folk Artists; does hereby congratulate him on his sterling ambassadorship of Louisiana's culture and history and the preservation of a staple of its cuisine; and does hereby extend to him every good wish for continued success, prosperity, and happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to John Oswald Colson.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES