

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 177

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To recognize June as African-American Music Appreciation Month in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, created by President Jimmy Carter in 1979 as National Black Music Month and renamed by President Barack Obama to African-American Music Appreciation Month in 2009, this month is meant to honor and celebrate African-American's contributions to music which comprises an essential part of our nation's treasured cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has contributed royally to this integral part of American history, with our rich history of being like a melting pot, or rather musical gumbo of various genres of music such as zydeco, jazz, blues, and gospel, with some of the most iconic musicians and artists the world has ever known being born and musically raised here in the Bayou state; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is also home to some of the most influential Hip-Hop artists in the history of music, commemorating its 50th anniversary, where many of the genres most incredible albums, songs, and emcees got their start in the cities and towns of this state; and

WHEREAS, initially Louisiana was not on Hip-Hop's national radar, as the genre's origin story began in the Bronx, New York, at a back-to-school block party in August 1973. Eighteen year old DJ Kool Herc spun records for his little sister's birthday party, incorporating the technique of playing the same two records and isolating the funkier percussion sections into extended break beats that kept the partygoers on the dance floor. With his friend, Coke La Rock, serving as Master of Ceremony (MC) whose task was to keep the crowd hyped by rhyming over the break beats; and

WHEREAS, in the late 80's and early 90's the New Orleans duo of Gregory D and Mannie Fresh was the first act out of Louisiana to be officially signed as a rap act; and

WHEREAS, along with other Louisiana rap pioneers such as T.T. Tucker and DJ Jimi were some of the first hip hop acts to make a name for themselves with the rise of bounce music, a specific style of call-and-response party music identified by its use of the "Triggerman" beat, a sample derived from the songs "Drag Rap" by the Showboys and

"Brown Beats" by Cameron Paul; and

WHEREAS, a Baton Rouge rapper by the name of MC Nero began gaining traction in the capital city with his 1991 hit record "Gotta Lotta Respect"; and

WHEREAS, rapper and actor Kyper would later play an instrumental role in amplifying Baton Rouge on the national rap scene with hits such as "Conceited", "What Gets Your Body Hyped (XTC)", and "Tic-Tac-Toe", with the latter peaking at Number 40 on the Billboard of Top 40 charts in 1990 and selling over one million copies, making Kyper the first rap act from Baton Rouge to gain platinum status; and

WHEREAS, the mid-late 1990s saw the emergence of three distinctive crews/record labels that would bolster the profile of Hip-Hop in Louisiana and introduce the world to some of rap's most successful and influential artists of all time; and

WHEREAS, in New Orleans, No Limit Records, founded by Percy "Master P" Miller, was responsible for making artists such as Mia X, Silkk the Shocker, Mystikal, and other household names, and sold seventy-five million albums at the height of its run in the industry and ushered in an unprecedented era of business deals in hip-hop when it brokered a historic 80-20% distribution deal with Priority Records in 1996, allowing the label to retain 80% of its profits and retain its publishing; and

WHEREAS, in New Orleans, Cash Money Records founded by Bryan "Baby" Williams and Ronald "Slim" Williams inked a thirty million dollar distribution deal with Universal Records and brokered an 80-20% profits split, while emerging into Hip-Hop's mainstream by introducing the world to artists such as Lil Wayne, who was named the No. 7 greatest rapper of all time by Billboard Magazine, and cultural juggernaut, Juvenile; and

WHEREAS, Cash Money's earliest iteration consisted of BG and Turk, who along with Juvenile and Lil Wayne comprised the multi-platinum-selling group, "The Hot Boys", as well as in-house super producer, Mannie Fresh. The Cash Money imprint would later be the recording home of global superstars such as Drake and Nicki Minaj; and

WHEREAS, Baton Rouge-based Concentration Camp, founded by Steven "C-Loc" Carrell served as the initial recording house of the iconic, Lil Boosie/Boosie Badazz, and also served as the origin for regional rap luminaries such as Young Bleed, Max Minelli, and C-Loc.; and

WHEREAS, the legacy of chart-topping acts based out of Baton Rouge would continue with the national emergence of artists such as Kevin Gates and NBA Youngboy, the latter of whose albums have topped Billboard's Top 200 upon their release for three consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, aside from chart-topping artists, Louisiana is home to some of the most prolific rappers the genre has ever known such as: Jay Electronica, Curren\$y, Mac Phipps, Terry Cotton, C-Loc, Young Bleed, Silky Slim, AK Ray, KE, Dr. Flash a dj and rapper, and Beelow and the Gangster; and

WHEREAS, there is an innumerable amount of independent emcees in Louisiana that have used their talent to connect people through music who preface their names with DJ such as: Bobby, Nick T., Ron, Norman Brown, Frank, Al, Slaughterman, Maximelli, J. Von, Tommy J., Wookie, Houma, Qtip, Tron, Fuji Crew, Rca Crew, Big June, Greg Dukes, Smurf, and Shonte a dj and producer; and

WHEREAS, another bridge that helps to share Louisiana's talent are the radio disc jockeys who announce and play music for thousands on a daily basis, such as: Jewel "Juiceman" Jackson, Ernest "The Nightrider Smith", Lou Bennett, Chris Clay, Ken "Ice Man" James, Drack Muse, J. Tweezy, Cat Daddy, Incredible, and Joe Marquis Anthony who is a radio dj and video show host; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has made an indelible mark on rap music and the Hip-Hop culture and has inspired the planet with our unique brand of storytelling, musicianship, cultural outlook, and a variety of flavor.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize June as African-American Music Appreciation Month in Louisiana; does hereby commend the artists who share their musical gifts with the world; and does hereby express enduring appreciation for the tremendous honor and pride they bring to Louisiana citizens.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE