

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 121

BY SENATOR BISHOP

COMMENDATIONS. Requests the New Orleans City Council to develop a way to appropriately honor Antoine "Fats" Domino Jr., for his commitment to and history with the community, the city of New Orleans, and the country.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the New Orleans City Council to develop a way to appropriately honor
3 Antoine "Fats" Domino Jr. for his commitment to and history with the community,
4 the city of New Orleans and the country.

5 WHEREAS, Antoine Dominique "Fats" Domino Jr. was born on February 26, 1928,
6 in New Orleans, Louisiana; and

7 WHEREAS, "Fats" Domino as he was known throughout his music career, died on
8 October 24, 2017, at the age of eighty-nine; and

9 WHEREAS, one of the pioneers of rock and roll music, "Fats" Domino sold more
10 than sixty-five million records; his 1949 release "The Fat Man" is widely regarded as the
11 first million-selling rock 'n roll record; and

12 WHEREAS, between 1955 and 1960, "Fats" Domino had eleven Top 10 hits and
13 during his career, "Fats" Domino had thirty-five records in the U.S. Billboard Top 40, and
14 five of his pre-1955 records sold more than a million copies, being certified gold; and

15 WHEREAS, his musical style was based on traditional rhythm and blues,
16 accompanied by saxophones, bass, piano, electric guitar, and drums; and

17 WHEREAS, his humility and shyness may be one reason "Fats" Domino's
18 contribution to the genre has been overlooked; and

1 WHEREAS, "Fats" Domino was one of the biggest stars of rock 'n roll in the 1950s
2 and one of the first R&B artists to gain popularity with white audiences; his biographer Rick
3 Coleman argues that Domino's records and tours with rock 'n roll shows in that decade,
4 bringing together black and white youths in a shared appreciation of his music, was a factor
5 in the breakdown of racial segregation in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, "Fats" Domino was also an important influence on the music of the
7 1960s and 1970s and was acknowledged as such by some of the top artists of that era; and

8 WHEREAS, Elvis Presley introduced "Fats" at one of his Las Vegas concerts,
9 saying, "This gentleman was a huge influence on me when I started out"; and also made this
10 comment in a 1957 interview: "A lot of people seem to think I started this business. But rock
11 'n roll was here a long time before I came along. Nobody can sing that music like colored
12 people. Let's face it: I can't sing it like "Fats" Domino can. I know that"; and

13 WHEREAS, both John Lennon and Paul McCartney recorded "Fats" Domino songs;
14 and

15 WHEREAS according to some reports, Paul McCartney wrote the Beatles song
16 "Lady Madonna" in emulation of Domino's style, combining it with a nod to Humphrey
17 Lyttelton's 1956 hit "Bad Penny Blues"; and

18 WHEREAS, "Fats" Domino returned to the "Hot 100" chart for the last time in 1968,
19 with his recording of "Lady Madonna"; that recording, as well as covers of two other songs
20 by the Beatles, appeared on his Reprise album Fats Is Back, produced by Richard Perry and
21 with several hits recorded by a band that included the New Orleans pianist James Booker;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, at a press conference when a journalist referred to Presley as "The
24 King" after Elvis Presley's first concert at the Las Vegas Hilton on July 31, 1969, Elvis
25 Presley gestured toward "Fats" Domino, who was taking in the scene, "No," Presley said,
26 "that's the real king of rock and roll"; and

27 WHEREAS, John Lennon covered Domino's composition "Ain't That a Shame" on
28 his 1975 album "Rock 'n' Roll", his tribute to the musicians who had influenced him; and

29 WHEREAS, American band Cheap Trick recorded "Ain't That a Shame" on their
30 1978 live album Cheap Trick at Budokan and released it as the second single from the

1 album; it reached 35 of the Billboard Hot 100; and reportedly, this was "Fats" Domino's
2 favorite cover; and

3 WHEREAS, the Jamaican reggae artist Yellowman covered many songs by "Fats"
4 Domino, including "Be My Guest" and "Blueberry Hill"; and

5 WHEREAS, in 2007, various artists came together for a tribute to Domino, recording
6 a live session containing only his songs; musicians performing on the album, Goin' Home:
7 A Tribute to Fats Domino, included Paul McCartney, Norah Jones, Willie Nelson, Neil
8 Young, and Elton John; and

9 WHEREAS, "Fats" Domino was one of the most consistent artists of early rock
10 music, the best-selling African-American rock 'n roll star of the 1950s, and the most popular
11 singer of the "classic" New Orleans rhythm and blues style; and

12 WHEREAS, his million-selling debut single, "The Fat Man" (1949), is one of many
13 that have been cited as the first rock 'n roll record; and Robert Christgau wrote that Domino
14 was "the most widely liked rock-and-roller of the 50s" and remarked on his influence; and

15 WHEREAS, "Fats" Domino was characterized by many as a shy, deferential,
16 uncharismatic man who invented New Orleans rock 'n roll.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
18 does hereby urge and request the New Orleans City Council to develop a way to
19 appropriately honor Antoine "Fats" Domino Jr. for his commitment to and history with the
20 community, the city of New Orleans and the country.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
22 New Orleans City Council.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Angela L. De Jean.

SR 121 Original

DIGEST
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