

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13

BY SENATOR WHEAT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate Tuesday, April 9, 2024, as Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Day at the state capitol.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana strawberry is the official state fruit of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, strawberries comprise about \$7,800,000 in total gross farm value in Tangipahoa Parish and over \$10,200,000 statewide; and

WHEREAS, the fifty-second annual Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival will be held April 12-14, 2024, at Memorial Park in historic and beautiful Ponchatoula; and

WHEREAS, the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival was organized in 1971, and the first festival was held in April of 1972; and

WHEREAS, the first Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival was co-sponsored by the Ponchatoula Jaycees and the Ponchatoula Chamber of Commerce, both of which provided three members to serve on the festival board; and

WHEREAS, the intent of this committee was to host a festival that not only provided an opportunity for local charitable organizations to raise money for their clubs, but also to honor all of the hardworking local strawberry farmers and to promote their industry; and

WHEREAS, the committee and many interested volunteers worked diligently for months planning the first festival; and

WHEREAS, for over fifty years, the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival has provided a venue for fundraising by nonprofit and charitable organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival attracts both young and old to its annual celebration of Ponchatoula's legendary delicacy, and food booths feature popular choices like strawberry shortcakes and deep-fried strawberries; and

WHEREAS, the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival celebrates its unique status as one of the only festivals at which nonprofit organizations are the only vendors on the official festival grounds.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Tuesday, April 9, 2024, as Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Day in the state of Louisiana and does hereby recognize the wonderful activities of this exceptional festival.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES