

2024 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 177

BY SENATOR BARROW

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH. Recognizes the month of June as African-American Music Appreciation Month in Louisiana.

1 A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

15 WHEREAS, initially Louisiana was not on Hip-Hop's national radar, as the genre's  
16 origin story began in the Bronx, New York at a back-to-school block party in August 1973.  
17 Eighteen year old DJ Kool Herc spun records for his little sister's birthday party  
18 incorporating the technique of playing the same two records and isolating the funkier

1 percussion sections into extended break beats that kept the partygoers on the dance floor.  
2 With his friend, Coke La Rock serving as Master of Ceremony (MC) whose task was to keep  
3 the crowd hyped by rhyming over the break beats; and

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

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, the mid-late 90s saw the emergence of three distinctive crews/record  
19 labels that would bolster the profile of Hip-Hop in Louisiana and introduce the world to  
20 some of rap's most successful and influential artists of all time; and

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

27 WHEREAS, in New Orleans Cash Money Records founded by Bryan "Baby"  
28 Williams and Ronald "Slim" Williams inked a thirty million dollars distribution deal with  
29 Universal Records and brokered an 80-20% profits split, while emerging into the Hip-Hop's  
30 mainstream by introducing the world to artists such as Lil Wayne, who was named the No.

1 7 greatest rapper of all time by Billboard Magazine, and cultural juggernaut, Juvenile; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Ann S. Brown.

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DIGEST

SR 177 Original	2024 Regular Session	Barrow
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