

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 39

BY REPRESENTATIVES GLORIOSO, BACALA, BAYHAM, BOYER, CHENEVERT, COX, FREEMAN, GALLE, ILLG, MIKE JOHNSON, MANDIE LANDRY, MCMAKIN, MUSCARELLO, NEWELL, STAGNI, VENTRELLA, VILLIO, AND WYBLE

A RESOLUTION

To commemorate the celebration of St. Joseph's Day on Thursday, March 19, 2026, in recognition of the cultural and historic links between Italy and Louisiana and to establish the Italian American Legislative Caucus.

WHEREAS, during the annual celebration of the Feast of Saint Joseph, the Patron Saint of Sicily and the universal Church, Italian Americans join with men, women, and children of all ethnic origins to celebrate Saint Joseph and the rich heritage of Italy; and

WHEREAS, on Saint Joseph's Day, people throughout Louisiana and around the world honor the tradition of the St. Joseph's Altar, a symbol of gratitude and community that reflects the spirit of compassion and providence; and

WHEREAS, Italian immigrants in the United States helped form the cultural foundation of the nation, and those of Italian lineage today proudly maintain the traditions of their ancestors through food, faith, and family; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana shares a strong cultural connection with Italy, especially in New Orleans and the surrounding parishes that welcomed waves of Italian immigrants during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, who made significant cultural contributions to the state's agriculture, commerce, and culinary identity; and

WHEREAS, Italian immigrants brought with them a deep-rooted tradition of brass band music, often arriving at the Port of New Orleans with their own cornets and trumpets, which became a foundational element of the city's unique musical landscape; and

WHEREAS, classically trained musicians and their descendants, including pioneers such as "Papa" Jack Laine, Nick LaRocca, and Louis Prima, collaborated across cultural

lines to help fuse Italian operatic melodies and brass traditions with African rhythms; this development played a pivotal role in the creation of the world-renowned genre of jazz; and

WHEREAS, the heritage of Italy is found in the timeless art, the enduring strength of the Italian-American community, and the profound influence of Italian culture on the unique fabric of Louisiana life.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commemorate the celebration of St. Joseph's Day on Thursday, March 19, 2026, and does hereby recognize the cultural and historic links between Italy and Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives does hereby establish the Italian American Legislative Caucus of the Legislature of Louisiana to represent and speak for Louisiana's Italian American citizens and to preserve and promote the traditions of citizens of Italian heritage.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES