

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 67

BY SENATOR MILLER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To proclaim May 5, 2026, as Chef John Folse Day and to commend and congratulate him for his outstanding contributions to the culinary arts and for his role in promoting Louisiana's rich cultural heritage throughout the world.

WHEREAS, in 1946, Chef John Folse was born in St. James Parish, Louisiana, where he developed an early appreciation for the unique ingredients and traditions of Louisiana's Cajun and Creole cuisine; and

WHEREAS, through talent, vision, and dedication, Chef John Folse transformed this passion into a distinguished career beginning in the 1970s, founding Chef John Folse & Company and opening Lafitte's Landing Restaurant in Donaldsonville, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, during the 1980s, Chef John Folse embarked on a mission to share "a taste of Louisiana" with the world, introducing Louisiana cuisine to global audiences by opening promotional and signature restaurants in Fukuoka, Japan (1985); Beijing, China (1986); Hong Kong (1987); Paris, France (1987); and Moscow (1988), where he established the first American restaurant on Soviet soil; and in 1989, he became the first non-Italian chef to create a Vatican State Dinner and was honored with a private audience with Pope John Paul II; and

WHEREAS, in the 1990s, Chef John Folse continued expanding his international culinary presence by opening restaurants in London, England; Bogotá, Colombia; Taipei, Taiwan; and Seoul, Korea; and

WHEREAS, also in the 1990s, Chef John Folse made his television debut hosting the PBS series A Taste of Louisiana with Chef John Folse & Company, followed by Cooking with Chef John Folse (1992), a nationally syndicated series of two hundred four, 90-second cooking segments produced by ABC Television; and in 1994, the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana, was established, awarding its first Bachelor of Science in Culinary Arts in 1996; and

WHEREAS, furthermore in the 1990s, Chef John Folse launched his talk radio show, Stirrin' It Up: The Best Tasting Show on Talk Radio, in 1996, which aired on AM and FM stations throughout the southern region; and in 1999, he opened Lafitte's Landing Restaurant at Bittersweet Plantation in Donaldsonville, offering fine dining and bed-and-breakfast accommodations; and

WHEREAS, during the 2000s and beyond, Chef John Folse expanded his culinary and entrepreneurial endeavors by establishing Stirrin' It Up television segments on WAFB-TV; opening Bittersweet Plantation Dairy, Petit Marché, and a USDA manufacturing facility in Donaldsonville; co-founding Restaurant R'evolution in the Royal Sonesta Hotel in New Orleans' historic French Quarter; supporting the expansion of the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute; establishing The Distillery on Jones Creek in 2018 at White Oak Estate & Gardens; and opening Folse Market in 2019 at the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport; and

WHEREAS, throughout his remarkable career, Chef John Folse has authored ten cookbooks, beginning with The Encyclopedia of Cajun & Creole Cuisine (1984), created in conjunction with the World's Fair, and culminating with Can You Dig It (2015), which received the Benny Award for "Best Cookbook" at the 2015 Premier Print Awards; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2026, Chef John Folse received the 2026 Lafcadio Hearn Lifetime Achievement Award from Nicholls State University; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana depends in great measure on the dedication of individuals, such as Chef John Folse, whose lifelong commitment to the culinary arts has established him as a pillar of the culinary community and a respected leader whose legacy continues to inspire Louisiana's future chefs; and

WHEREAS, it is therefore appropriate to extend a special measure of commendation to celebrate and recognize Chef John Folse for his distinguished career and lasting contributions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby proclaim May 5, 2026, as Chef John Folse Day and commends and congratulates him for his outstanding contributions to the culinary arts and for his role in promoting Louisiana's rich cultural heritage throughout the world.

SCR NO. 67

ENROLLED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Chef
John Folsie.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES