

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 210

BY REPRESENTATIVE MARINO

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Darryl Joseph "Big Chief Mut-Mut" Montana upon his retirement and for his many contributions

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Darryl Joseph "Big Chief Mut-Mut" Montana upon his retirement and for his  
3 many accomplishments and dedication to his heritage.

4 WHEREAS, "Big Chief" Darryl Montana is the youngest son of the late Allison "Big  
5 Chief Tootie" Montana and Joyce Francis Montana, born on April 8, 1955, and the husband  
6 of Sabrina Mays-Montana; and

7 WHEREAS, "Big Chief" Darryl Montana is the fourth generation of the Montana's  
8 Black Masking Indian tradition heritage that began in the late 1800s with his great, great  
9 grandmother's brother, Becate Batiste, the legendary founding father of Big Chief of the  
10 Creole Wild West, who, in honor of his Creole and Indian heritage, created the first  
11 organized tribe in the Seventh Ward; and

12 WHEREAS, Darryl's father, Allison "Big Chief Tootie" Montana, world renowned  
13 Chief of Chiefs, Chief of the Monogram Hunters, and Chief of the Yellow Pocahontas Mardi  
14 Gras Indian Tribe, established in 1919, dedicated more than fifty-four years to the  
15 indigenous cultural tradition of "masking as a Black Indian"; and

16 WHEREAS, at the age of six, "Big Chief" Darryl Montana earned weekly allowances  
17 by cutting and bottling sequins, beads, and stones from his father's old Indian suits, and in  
18 1965, at the age of ten, he used money from washing cars at a body and fender shop located  
19 under his home and his weekly allowances to purchase materials for his first Indian suit for  
20 Carnival in 1966; and

1           WHEREAS, while Mr. Montana masked in the Yellow Pocahontas (Hunters) Tribe  
2 with his father for more than fifteen years before getting a position within the tribe, he honed  
3 the skills necessary to create, design, and sew his suits, under his father's close guidance,  
4 learning and respecting the rules of masking as a Black Indian; and

5           WHEREAS, he was Trial Chief, Second Chief, and, in 1997, became Big Chief of  
6 the Yellow Pocahontas Black Masking Indian Tribe, earning praise from local, national, and  
7 international communities and artists for his meticulous attention to detail in creating three-  
8 dimensional designs for each suit; and

9           WHEREAS, "Big Chief" Darryl Montana's exquisite suits have been exhibited  
10 locally, nationally, and internationally at many festivals and cultural events; he is a 2012  
11 recipient of the Joan Mitchell Foundation Painter and Sculptor Award, a 2014 USA Artists  
12 Glasgow Fellow, Crafts and Traditional Arts, a 2015 New Orleans Arts Council Community  
13 Arts Award Honoree, and, in 2017, one of seventy-three selected national and international  
14 artists in Prospect 4 in New Orleans; and

15           WHEREAS, "Big Chief" Darryl Montana maintained the integrity of the culture and  
16 tradition of "masking" and viewed his participation as an act of service for his family and  
17 community and earned the admiration of his family, peers, and a world community for  
18 sharing annual gifts of extraordinary Black Masking Indian suits; and

19           WHEREAS, "Big Chief" Darryl Montana officially retired on Carnival Day, 2017,  
20 as Big Chief of the Yellow Pocahontas Tribe, after forty-eight years as a Black Masking  
21 Indian.

22           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
23 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Darryl Joseph "Big Chief Mut-Mut"  
24 Montana upon his retirement and for his many accomplishments and dedication to his  
25 heritage, culture, and traditions.

26           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
27 to Darryl Joseph "Big Chief Mut-Mut" Montana.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 210 Original

2017 Regular Session

Marino

Commends Darryl Joseph "Big Chief Mut-Mut" Montana upon his retirement and for his many accomplishments and dedication to his heritage.