

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 250

BY REPRESENTATIVES GLOVER, BAGLEY, CARMODY, COX, HORTON, HUNTER,
JEFFERSON, JENKINS, JIM MORRIS, NORTON, REYNOLDS, AND
SEABAUGH

A RESOLUTION

To posthumously commend Eddie Hughes, the creator of "Eddie's Original Stuffed Shrimp",
to commend Eddie's Seafood and Soul Food Restaurant in Shreveport upon its
fortieth anniversary, to designate "Eddie's Original Stuffed Shrimp" as the official
Stuffed Shrimp of Louisiana, and to recognize July 14, 2018, as Eddie Hughes Day
in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the life and legacy of Eddie Hughes, a
former chef and manager of the Freeman & Harris Café, founder and former owner of
Eddie's Seafood and Soul Food Restaurant, and the creator and originator of "Eddie's
Original Stuffed Shrimp"; and

WHEREAS, as a child, Eddie's foster parents were part owners of the famous and
historic Freeman & Harris Café; Eddie learned the ins and outs of the family business by
working there after school, washing dishes and mopping floors; and

WHEREAS, in junior high, Eddie began bussing tables and helping out in the
kitchen; he discovered his passion for cooking while working at Freeman & Harris; at the
age of seventeen, Eddie Hughes invented his renowned stuffed shrimp dish; and

WHEREAS, after graduating high school, Eddie enlisted in the U.S. Army for two
years, where he was a culinary arts instructor; after returning from active duty, Eddie
returned to Freeman & Harris as head chef where he created his stuffed shrimp and its
accompanying secret recipe tartar sauce; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, Eddie married his high school sweetheart, Lois Bryant Hughes;
the couple had three children, Eugene "Geno" Hughes, Mavice Hughes Thigpen, and Ora
Hughes Patrick, and several loving grandchildren who worked at the restaurant through all
their high school years, Britney, Bryant, Trudy, Karma, Sherry, Javia, and Jarrett; and

WHEREAS, in 1960, Eddie became the first African American chef at the local
Holiday Inn; he was also working full time at Freeman & Harris; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Eddie earned a bachelor of science degree in business from Grambling State University; and

WHEREAS, after working for Freeman & Harris for thirty-two years, Eddie decided to go out on his own; Eddie and his wife and children built Eddie's Seafood and Soul Food Restaurant; it opened in 1978 and is the oldest continuously operated African American owned restaurant in northwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Eddie's Seafood and Soul Food Restaurant was featured in the October 2015 issue of *Southern Living* magazine as "The South's Best Soul Food" and was recognized in the May-June 2016 edition of *Louisiana Cookin'* as one of Louisiana's best shrimp eateries; and

WHEREAS, Eddie and the restaurant were also featured on Poppy Tooker's "Louisiana Eats!", an NPR-affiliated radio show based in New Orleans, Food Network's "Flip My Food", and in the *Shreveport Times*; and

WHEREAS, the Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau produced a short film in honor of Eddie Hughes in 2016; *Shreveport-Bossier Magazine* featured Eddie's shrimp creole recipe in its November 2016 edition; and

WHEREAS, Eddie's Seafood and Soul Food Restaurant has become a renowned institution, and the life and legacy of Eddie Hughes hold a special place in the hearts of many residents of Shreveport and the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby posthumously commend Eddie Hughes, the creator of "Eddie's Original Stuffed Shrimp"; does hereby commend Eddie's Seafood and Soul Food Restaurant in Shreveport upon its fortieth anniversary; does hereby designate "Eddie's Original Stuffed Shrimp" as the official Stuffed Shrimp of Louisiana; and does hereby recognize July 14, 2018, as Eddie Hughes Day in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Eddie Hughes.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES