

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 107

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate October first annually as Clementine Hunter Day in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Clementine Hunter was born in either late December 1886 or early January 1887 to a Creole family at Hidden Hill Plantation, near Cloutierville; and

WHEREAS, Clementine was the eldest of seven children born to Mary Antoinette Adams and Janvier "John" Reuben; and

WHEREAS, although there is some doubt about her actual date of birth, it is generally believed that Clementine Hunter was at least one hundred years old when she died on January 1, 1988; and

WHEREAS, Clementine worked as a farm laborer at Melrose Plantation during her youth, where she picked and chopped cotton, harvested pecans, planted vegetables, and occasionally attended school, although she never learned to read or write; and

WHEREAS, in 1924, she married Emmanuel Hunter, who was a woodchopper at Melrose Plantation; she had seven children; and

WHEREAS, in her fifties, Clementine began painting with materials left behind by a visitor; she became a self-taught artist who produced artwork depicting plantation life in the early twentieth century; and

WHEREAS, although Clementine Hunter's works sold for as little as twenty five cents, at present, her paintings and quilts are considered to be of priceless value; and

WHEREAS, over time, Clementine Hunter's paintings have gained international acclaim, and her art has been celebrated in film documentaries, on stage, and in art galleries across the United States and the world, including the National Gallery of Art and the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, she received an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from Northwestern State University in 1986; and

WHEREAS, Clementine Hunter is retrospectively viewed as an early feminist because her paintings consistently depict women in a more prominent posture than men, thus evincing her view that women contributed more to stabilizing home and society; and

WHEREAS, as the only black folk artist to create a significant body of work giving voice to her people's experience in the rural and agrarian south, Clementine Hunter occupies a unique position in the history of American art; and

WHEREAS, her creations documented a period of history that other artists failed to consider, and in so doing, gave others a taste of the rhythms and rituals of the Cane River coast; and

WHEREAS, a resilient lady of small physical stature, through her paintings and quilts, Clementine Hunter occupies a place at the pinnacle of American culture.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate October first annually as Clementine Hunter Day in Louisiana and does hereby celebrate the legacy of Clementine Hunter, whose life and artistic achievements have immeasurably benefitted the citizens of the great state of Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE