

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 19

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHEXNAYDER

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Richard "Ricky" Thomas for his business, civic, and philanthropic service to the state of Louisiana and its citizens

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Richard "Ricky" Thomas for his business, civic, and philanthropic service to  
3 the state of Louisiana and its citizens.

4 WHEREAS, Ricky Thomas is the president of Blue Runner Foods, a Louisiana  
5 company that specializes in manufacturing authentic Creole meals; and

6 WHEREAS, Blue Runner Foods was founded in 1918 and began producing Creole  
7 meals with the help of the Union Canning Company, a cannery that packaged fresh fruits and  
8 a variety of other food items; and

9 WHEREAS, Ricky purchased Blue Runner Foods in 1993 and has continued to  
10 expand the menu to include Creole meal bases and soups; all Blue Runner products are still  
11 produced in Gonzales, and the company stands as the last cannery in Louisiana; its products  
12 are distributed nationally, and every week more than one million Blue Runner meals are  
13 consumed in Louisiana; and

14 WHEREAS, Ricky and his brother-in-law Eric Stuart, who is the race director for  
15 the Allstate Sugar Bowl Crescent City Classic, have helped make the ten kilometer race a  
16 philanthropic endeavor; as a result of their efforts, the Crescent City Fitness Foundation,  
17 which hosts the race, gives away entries to charitable organizations, and charity directors  
18 recruit runners to participate on behalf of their respective charities; in 2019, the race raised  
19 more than \$1 million for twenty-four Louisiana non-profit organizations; and

1           WHEREAS, Ricky and his Blue Runner team, in partnership with Second Harvest  
2 Food Bank and Louisiana Healthcare Connections, launched the "Millions of Meals"  
3 campaign at the onset of the COVID-19 stay-at-home order; in April, the first one hundred  
4 thousand red beans and rice meals were distributed to Second Harvest to assist families in  
5 need during the COVID-19 crisis; Second Harvest serves twenty-three parishes across South  
6 Louisiana; and

7           WHEREAS, Ricky is also a partner in Port Orleans Brewing Company; in 2020,  
8 Ricky and Port Orleans president, Don Noel, launched Port Orleans Brewing United to serve  
9 freshly prepared meals for hospitality industry employees; the money raised was reinvested  
10 in the community; during April and May of 2020, POB United provided more than four  
11 thousand hot meals from the Port Orleans facility for hospitality workers impacted by the  
12 COVID-19 pandemic; and

13           WHEREAS, Blue Runner Foods continued operations at its Burnside Avenue  
14 location in Gonzales throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and increased operations to seven  
15 days a week; company employees were provided housing, catered meals, and compensation  
16 at a premium rate in order to maintain operations; in September 2020, Blue Runner Foods  
17 delivered one hundred thousand red beans meals to the Second Harvest Food Bank in  
18 Lafayette, Louisiana, as part of its ongoing "Millions of Meals" campaign; and

19           WHEREAS, Richard "Ricky" Thomas has been extremely generous in giving back  
20 to Louisiana and its people by providing food and jobs to those impacted by COVID-19 and  
21 the recent hurricanes, and for this he is most deserving of commendation.

22           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
23 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Richard "Ricky" Thomas for his business,  
24 civic, and philanthropic service to the citizens of Louisiana; does hereby take this  
25 opportunity to express the deepest gratitude for his innumerable contributions to the  
26 preservation, promotion, and advancement of Louisiana's world-renowned food culture; and  
27 does hereby extend sincere hopes and wishes that he continue to prosper in his future  
28 endeavors.

29           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
30 Richard "Ricky" Thomas.

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 19 Original

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Schexnayder

Commends Richard "Ricky" Thomas of Blue Runner Foods for his business, civic, and philanthropic service.